

Hafa Adai!

On call for reduction of work hours: 'We have yet to cross that bridge' **PAGE 2**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 60

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## Expanded military tourism eyed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

With the CNMI's recent decision to pivot its tourism industry away from its reliance on China, one alternative market

the administration is looking at is bolstering military tourism from nearby Guam.

According to Daniel Aquino, special assistant for Military

### COVID-19 task force now dissolved

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER



The COVID-19 Task force, which was created in 2020 as a means to combat the pandemic during its peak, is no more after the current

See COVID-19 on Page 4

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:  
**187**

### RELATED NEWS

JRM to introduce MWR program to CNMI businesses. **PAGE 3**

tary Affairs, the administration has already kicked into gear its plans to tap into mili-

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## Bestseller to close Saipan outlet

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan's lone bookstore, Bestseller Saipan, will be permanently shuttering its doors next month after fulfilling every local bookworm's needs since 1994.

"After 29 years of serving the community,"

See OUTLET on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

The Bestseller branch in Chalan Kiya.



## OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL



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## Making the NMI proud at USAF

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Two homegrown individuals completed the U.S. Air Force's

Officer Training School in Montgomery, Alabama early this month, and bring pride to the Marianas as the first enlisted pilot

from Saipan and most likely the first nurse from Saipan to directly commission in the U.S. Air Force.

Second Lt. Ron Ron Catap and 2d Lt. Haram Lee both

completed and graduated from Officer Training School on March 10, 2023, and Lee shared that, while Catap was recognized as the first enlisted

**We may come from a tiny dot on the map and are few in numbers, but we make that up with our work ethic and pride.**

pilot from Saipan, she was told that she is the first nurse from Saipan to directly commission in the U.S. Air Force.

Lee explained that the train-

See USAF on Page 4

2nd Lt. Ron Ron Catap, left, and 2d Lt. Haram Lee have both completed and graduated from Officer Training School in the U.S. Air Force on March 10, 2023.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

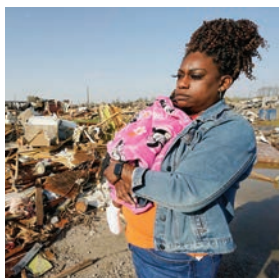
### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted its 1st Quarter Networking Mixer on March 22.

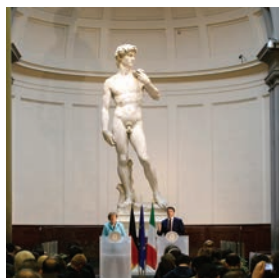
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#### NATION

A powerful tornado cuts a devastating path through Mississippi, killing at least 25 people.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

A school principal is forced to resign after a parent complained about a lesson on Renaissance art.

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# Local

## ON PALACIOS' CALL FOR REDUCTION OF WORK HOURS: 'We have yet to cross that bridge'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Legislature has yet to make any decision on the call of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for the Legislature to cut employees' work schedule as part of cost-containment measures.

In response to Saipan Tri-

bune's inquiry about a possible cut in work hours, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said over the weekend that the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is still busy working on the fiscal year 2023 modified budget.



DeLeon Guerrero

"We have yet to cross that bridge and when we do, it will be decided before the passage of the modified budget," she said.

The Senate president noted that the target date of the 72-hour work schedule is April 24, 2023,

which makes it a little over five months in diminished payroll expenses for the rest of the fiscal year, which she said is quite a significant change from the initial plan of March 1, 2023.

Legislative Bureau director Perry P. Tenorio stated in his recent report on the revisions to the fiscal year budget law that, unless there is a downturn in local revenue, the bureau does not anticipate any reduction in their personnel's work hours. One

hundred percent of the bureau's personnel cost is funded by local funds.

Tenorio said that Palacios' revision to the fiscal year 2023 budget law spare the bureau and the CNMI Youth Congress from any cuts.

Palacios recently announced the cutting down of work schedule of some Executive Branch employees to just 72 hours starting April 24, 2023, and through the end of the fiscal year, which

is Sept. 30, 2023.

Citing that the fiscal challenges the CNMI faces impact the whole government and the community, the governor urged the Legislature and Judiciary, as well as autonomous agencies of the government, to similarly implement cost-containment measures, particularly with respect to operations or personnel that were funded in whole or in part by the American Rescue Plan Act.

## Kilili: Many in the NMI have benefitted from student loan forgiveness policies

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has come to the defense of the repayment pause and forgiveness policies of U.S. President Joseph Biden, saying individuals in the Marianas with student loan debt have benefitted from it.

In his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said these policies are now being challenged by Attorneys General affiliated with the Republican Party all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Six-Republican-led states have filed a lawsuit against

Biden's forgiveness policies, accusing the President of overstepping his authority. Sablan said Republicans in Congress piled on with a hearing Wednesday to criticize those policies.

Sablan, however, spoke in favor with the Biden policies during the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Workforce's Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee hearing, called "Examining the Implications of Biden's Student Loan Policies for Students and Taxpayers."

The delegate shared the experience of a constituent from

the CNMI, whose life, according to him, is a little easier because of such Biden's policies.

Sablan said as a member of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, he

will continue to support federal policies that make higher education an affordable reality for all Americans.

On July 28, 2022, Sablan and several of other U.S. lawmakers wrote Biden and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cordona, urging them to pause student loan payments, given the numerous economic issues facing borrowers across the nation, as

well as administrative actions in process by the department.

The lawmakers noted that on Sept. 1, 2022, tens of millions of federal student loan borrowers are scheduled to resume payments.

Sablan and his colleagues said that resuming student loan payments would force millions of borrowers to choose between paying their federal student loans or putting a roof over their heads, food on the table, or paying for childcare and healthcare—while costs continue to rise and yet another COVID-19 variant increases hospitalizations nationwide.

Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the U.S. Department of Education an-

nounced in 2022 a three-part plan, including the loan forgiveness of up to \$20,000, to help working and middle-class

federal student loan borrowers transition back to regular payment as pandemic-related support expires.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Rip currents seen until tonight

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through Monday night along east facing reefs of the Marianas, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is advised to stay out of the water along east facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and

float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

#### Power service interruption in Kagman II

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, in Kagman II, from 9am to 12pm. This will affect a partial area of Achoti Avenue. The power outage will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace a defective primary power pole along Achoti Avenue. No water well, wastewater facility, or traffic light will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



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# JRM to introduce MWR program to CNMI businesses

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

Representatives of Joint Region Marianas are set to come to Saipan this week to share a presentation on its Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Quality of Life program, which essentially gives local businesses a chance

to partner with JRM to sell its products and services to military personnel in Guam.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, together with the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs and the Marianas Visitors Authority, are inviting the CNMI business community and the public to

attend a presentation by the Joint Region Marianas tomorrow, Tuesday, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 10am to 11:30am.

Shortly after the presentation, JRM representatives will meet with businesses for one-on-one sessions from 12pm to 7pm, according to Kim Camacho,

executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"If you are a business interested in marketing your services and/or products, please contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office to sign up as slots are limited," she said.

Camacho said this is a great opportunity to build the

CNMI's economy. "We encourage the business community to take advantage of this and partake in the presentation to learn more," she said.

In a statement from Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs special assistant Danny Aquino, he said the introduction of the MWR program is

good news for the CNMI as this would open doors for a military tourism market.

He said the prospect of a military market is an ideal solution, especially since the CNMI administration is committed to pivoting the CNMI's tourism industry away from its reliance on the China market.

## 'Non-PSS PD donations is past practice; BOE members need not pay back funds'

By **LEIGH GASES**  
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CORRESPONDENT

The donation of unused Professional Development funds to groups outside of the CNMI Public School System is past practice and those who have done so without prior knowledge do not need to pay back the funds.

That's according to interim Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che in an interview during a break of the BOE's regular board meeting last Thursday. "In the past, if they had any unspent money, they were given leeway to do with it what they wanted. What they've done with unspent money is that they would donate to [non-government organizations], nonprofit organizations that serve our students or have an educational purpose. So that has been past practice," she said.

The issue arose after an unofficial "white paper" from an anonymous source, the origin of which could not be independently verified, disclosed that some BOE members may have violated federal rules for donating unspent funds from their federally-funded PD accounts to non-PSS organizations.

When asked if board mem-

bers who donated prior to the knowledge that funds were not allowed to be donated outside PSS have to pay back the funds, she said no. "They did that, not knowing that it was not permissible. And I think there's a big difference between not knowing and doing it, and also knowing that it's not permissible but still wanting to do it. It's two different things."

So there are "no requests for funding to be returned because these were money that was given to an NGO that was servicing our students and focused on education in some way indirectly," she said.

Che, who joined PSS as its interim Federal Programs officer last July 2022, said she had had looked into the matter and found out that board members are actually not allowed to be donating the funds outside of PSS. She informed the board of it last September 2022.

She said it might have some flexibility because they had donated to educational NGOs servicing students but, "if you're reading it line by line—the actual black and white—no donations are allowed outside of the district, so I'll leave it at that."

The anonymous document had claimed that BOE chair Gregory P. Borja and BOE

secretary/treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio had donated their unspent PD funds to non-PSS organizations. When asked about it, both said that, at the time of their donation, it was permis-

sible to donate their unspent PD funds and that they did so for good causes.

Tenorio donated \$3,000 to the Know Your Worth competition, which is part of the

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coalition's Teen Dating Violence Month campaign, which seeks to combat teen dating violence through an art, essay, and spoken word competitions.

Borja donated to the Inter-

act clubs of Saipan, which are Rotary-sponsored clubs of high school students, and the Rotary Club of Saipan \$12,000 last August 2022, before they were told that donating outside of PSS was impermissible.

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# Fishers forum today

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is hosting a CNMI Fishers Forum today at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, from 6pm to 9pm.

The free forum is for discussing bottomfish—fish that live at or near the bottom of a body of water—in Marianas waters.

Information tables, presentations, demonstrations and more welcomes everyone in the community.

Welcoming remarks will be made

by Richard Farrell, Council CNMI Advisory Panel vice chair, at 6pm.

Right after, information tables are open and available from the Division of Environmental Quality of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality; Sea Turtle Program of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources; DLNR Division of Fish & Wildlife; Division of Coastal Resources Management; bottomfish demo by Tony Guerrero; Micronesian Environmental Services; and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

Later in the evening at 7pm, opening

remarks will be made by John Gourley, council chairman from CNMI.

Presentations will then be made by council staff Joshua DeMello on the “Changes to Managed Bottomfish Species in CNMI”; followed by Tony Guerrero’s “History of Bottomfishing”; Nathan Van Ee from DLNR DFW, on “CNMI Mandatory Data Reporting”; Marlowe Sabater from the National Marine Fisheries Service on “Bottomfish Stock Assessment”; Gourley on “Bottomfish Biosampling”; and Gene Weaver from Tasi to Table.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## USAF

From Page 1

ing was a nine-week, four-phase program and took place from Jan. 10 to March 10, 2023.

In a conversation with *Saipan Tribune*, Lee said that, although she and Catap had known each other prior to the academy, they were surprised to find out they were in the same class upon entering the OTS. She was very grateful for that.

“Lt. Ron and I knew each other from before so it was a big surprise when we both found out that we were in the same class. We ended up being in the same squadron. ...I owe him. He helped me a lot through the training,” she said.

Lee said that applying for the OTS took a year since there were no other nurses from Saipan who had applied for it. “I started the process around mid-2021 and got my acceptance letter for Officer Training School late last year. The process consists of getting qualified medically, academically, physically and, most importantly, passing an interview and being selected by the USAF board,” she said.

Upon joining the OTC soon after, she described the experience as “overwhelming” at first. “But I met

great instructors and teammates who helped me push myself above and beyond my limits. ...It’s insane how much you can learn and grow in just two months. The best part was building connections with the instructors and teammates. I didn’t realize that it was possible to be surrounded by so many smart and intelligent people with different background, job title, and personalities,” she said.

Catap started his career in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft mechanic on C-17s, “so it was a lot of backbreaking work and time spent overseas.”

During his 10 years as an aircraft maintainer, he deployed five times, and spent an average of 200-plus days overseas. Catap was also a part of the crew that brought relief to Saipan after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the islands in 2018.

“My time as an aircraft mechanic is what really sparked my interest and goal of becoming a pilot. I went to school working on my B.S. in Aviation degree, while also taking flying lessons. I was able to obtain my commercial pilot license and instrument rating and even flew part-time for an aerial survey company, obtaining several hundred hours to gain experience. In 2019, the Air Force reinstated a program to allow enlisted pilots

to fly Remotely Piloted Aircraft—most commonly referred to as RPAs or drones—and I was one of 96 enlisted airmen selected to fly the RQ-4 Global Hawk. This was the first time since World War II that enlisted pilots were allowed to fly, so it was a huge deal. I flew the RQ-4 for nearly four years as a mission commander, but with the concurrent aircraft divestment and sunset of enlisted pilots, I decided commissioning was the next step in my career.”

As the first, and currently the only enlisted pilot from Saipan in the U.S. Air Force, Catap said he doesn’t take that distinction lightly. He sees it as a responsibility to be a good representative of the Marianas.

“In almost every room and team I am a part of, I am the lone person from Saipan, so I approach every situation as an opportunity to represent our islands. I believe every person away from home feels the same way, regardless of their profession. We may come from a tiny dot on the map and are few in numbers, but we make that up with our work ethic and pride,” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## OUTLET

From Page 1

munity of Saipan, Micronesia Media Distributor, Inc. dba Bestseller Saipan will be closing its doors on Monday, April 17, 2023,” said Bestseller, Inc. vice president for Operations May Camacho in a March 17, 2023, letter posted on the door of the bookstore.

Camacho elaborated on Bestseller’s decision in an email response to *Saipan Tribune* questions. “We have weathered many ups and downs over the last 29 years serving the Saipan community but the last three years have been especially challenging and, unfortunately, we have decided that it is best for us to close.”

Until now until its imminent closure, Bestseller Saipan is having a close-out sale where most merchandise will be 30% off. Micronesia Media Distributor is planning to donate leftover inventory to as yet-to-be named organizations.

When asked if the move from Joeten Susupe to Chalan Kiya years ago had an effect in sales, Camacho said yes, but added that the COVID-19

pandemic was the bigger challenge.

“We did experience a different flow of customers after our move, which was expected because it was a different location and size. [But] like everyone else, COVID-19 was a big factor affecting our sales. Our landlords at the MAC Building have been very supportive and just recently installed a generator for the building. We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to do business with them,” she said, while adding that all types of businesses have also been affected by the advent of online sellers and Bestseller Saipan wasn’t spared.

Camacho did leave a sliver of hope that Bestseller Saipan may make a comeback.

“When things pick up we will revisit the idea of a retail location but for now we can continue serving our customers from our Guam locations,” she added.

As for Bestseller Saipan employees, Camacho said that, like the bookstore, they too will be moving on.

“We currently have two employees on Saipan. One is a full-time student with a different part-time job and the other employee will be moving off-

island to be with family in the [United] States,” she said.

While a chapter of Bestseller literally is closing on Saipan, Camacho said the company’s two stores in neighboring Guam is at the beck and call of book and magazine readers from the CNMI.

“We look forward to serving you through our Guam stores. To place and pay for an order please call or email either location.”

She said the two remaining Bestseller stores in the U.S. territory are Bestseller Micronesia Mall at 1088 W. Marine Corps Drive, Dededo (telephone number 671-637-5001 email and [bestmall@iake-associates.com](mailto:bestmall@iake-associates.com)) and Bestseller Guam Premier Outlets at 199 Chalan San Antonio Suite 119 Tamuning, Guam (telephone number 671-647-7234 and email [bestgpo@iake-associates.com](mailto:bestgpo@iake-associates.com)).

“We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people of Saipan for their patronage and support these past 29 years. It has been a privilege being a part of the Saipan community. We will miss seeing our customers and look forward to continuing to serve them through our Guam stores,” said Camacho.

## COVID-19

From Page 1

administration decided not to renew the emergency declaration related to COVID-19.

Warren Villagomez, director for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and COVID-19 task force chairman, stated that the COVID-19 Task Force has been officially dissolved since March 4.

Villagomez explained that after discussing the need for a task force with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and the Department of Homeland Security, it was determined that the CNMI should now transition toward normalcy.

“The task force is no longer in existence since March 4, the same time the declaration expired. With discussions with the governor and Department of Homeland Security, Gov. Palacios basically decided that we’re going to start getting back to normalcy and start basically closing out and making sure there’s no additional commitment as well as expenditures attached to COVID response,” he said.

In addition to the dissolution of the task force, COVID-19 safety protocols have also since been rescinded.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will also soon take down the COVID-19 response tents at the Commonwealth Health Center parking lot.

## MILITARY

From Page 1

tary spending in the CNMI through tourism.

“The military is always interested in exploring, diving, golfing, anything leisurely and recreational for families. That’s what they’re looking at. We’re trying to get them to visit here from Guam. We’re currently actively pursuing this,” said Aquino.

Aquino shared that the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs has already started establishing partnerships in preparation for this new industry.

“For the governor and lieutenant governor’s part, we’re moving toward the direction of military [tourism] as we pivot away from our China market. We’re trying to encourage [Joint Region Marianas] to conduct more military training exercises here,” he said.

“As we move forward, we’ve partnered with the Marianas Visitors Authority to create staycation packages [for military personnel]. It’s currently in the preliminary stages. We’re also working with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on this,” Aquino added.

Tomorrow, representatives from Joint Region Marianas will be giving a presentation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on the Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program, which deals with providing community, soldier, and family support. *Story on Page 3*

Aquino said the CNMI is looking at using this program to provide staycation packages for military personnel and their family to entice them to visit Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

Prior to this, the Alternative Care site in Chalan Kanoa was shut down following the expiration of the contract authorizing the use of Kanoa Resort Saipan as an ACS.

According to Villagomez, all the equipment that were procured for the ACS have been stowed at CHC, with some of the equipment replacing outdated ones at the health center.

“All of those equipment that were at the ACS were all transferred over to CHC and some of them will also be used at the Rota and Tinian healthcare centers. That equipment is being stored at CHC under the leadership of CHCC CEO Esther Muna,” he said

“The beds, for example, 95% of the beds used at the ACS have replaced the beds at the CHC. The same way as the air conditioning systems used at the ACS have replaced the ones at CHC, as well as ultraviolet equipment. We took them down and they are safeguarded and they’re going to be utilized by our healthcare facilities on Saipan Rota, and Tinian. Meanwhile, the other equipment that are not being utilized at this time are safely stored in a climate-controlled space so they can be well kept for future use,” he added

Villagomez assures the CNMI community that all the money invested into the ACS will not go to waste as the equipment will still be utilized but now for different needs.

“This forum that’s happening on Tuesday is a perfect opportunity for businesses to start registering and start getting prepared for more military personnel to come here to the CNMI. This [presentation] happening on Tuesday is a good opportunity for businesses in the CNMI to take advantage of by registering their businesses with the Military Affairs office, register their businesses for a SAMS [Systems for Awards Management] number because the military’s priority is businesses with SAMS numbers.”

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero, said the possibility of military tourism in the CNMI is good news, given the loss of one of the CNMI’s largest tourism markets: China.

“This is just the start. From my understanding, there are more plans for military spending in the CNMI. Again, these are plans and we’re hoping that the military pushes through with it. All of these is great news for the CNMI because this is one of the ways we’ve talked about diversifying our economy. I think the vision isn’t to replace tourism, but to add to our industries,” he said.

Guerrero said he looks forward to seeing more military families visit the CNMI.

“Military personnel [in] Guam often don’t have time to go visit their families in the [United] States so they’re opting to bring their families out to the Marianas to visit. We’re hoping that these families will consider the CNMI as a place for them to come spend their week-ends or up to a week. We look forward to this and there’s better times ahead,” Guerrero said.



# USCIS announces end of COVID-related flexibilities

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday that certain flexibilities it first announced in March 2020, to address the COVID-19 pandemic will end on March 23, 2023.

USCIS previously notified the public in its Jan. 24, 2023, announcement that barring any changes presented by

the pandemic, the extension of these flexibilities announced on Jan. 24 would be the last.

You must respond to any notices or requests from USCIS dated after March 23 by the deadlines listed in the notice or request. This includes:

- Requests for Evidence;
- Continuations to Request Evidence (N-14);

- Notices of Intent to Deny;
- Notices of Intent to Revoke;

- Notices of Intent to Re-scind;

- Notices of Intent to Terminate regional centers;

- Notices of Intent to Withdraw Temporary Protected Status; and

- Motions to Reopen an

N-400 Pursuant to 8 CFR 335.5, Receipt of Derogatory Information After Grant.

Additionally, if you wish to file Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, or Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings (Under Section 336 of the INA), regarding a decision dated after

March 23, 2023, you must comply with the deadlines in the form instructions.

USCIS retains discretion to provide certain flexibilities on a case-by-case basis upon request, for applicants or petitioners affected by an emergency or unforeseen circumstance, such as natural catastrophes (hurricanes, wildfires, severe weather, etc.), national emergencies (public

health emergencies), or severe illness (including COVID). See the Immigration Relief in Emergencies or Unforeseen Circumstances webpage for more information about remaining case-by-case flexibilities

As a reminder, the flexibilities regarding reproduced signatures first announced on March 20, 2020, became policy as announced on July 25, 2022. (USCIS)

## USCG works with Saipan counterparts to sharpen maritime operational skills

By LT. CMDR. CHRISTINE IGI-SOMAR and CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR  
U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES MICRONESIA / SECTOR GUAM

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. Coast Guard conducted a subject matter exchange with boating safety and customs counterparts on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on March 21, 2023, to enhance maritime operations management.

Personnel from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB 215) with small boat station experience worked with the CNMI Department of Public Safety - Boating Safety and the CNMI Customs and Biosecurity - Marine Unit.

The exchange was based on the standards used by U.S. Coast Guard small boat stations nationwide and focused on administrative topics, such as completing unit organization manuals, standing orders, detailed duties, assignments, and watch schedules.

"The engagements were at no cost to our search and rescue and law enforcement partners," said Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, U.S. Coast Guard FM/SG maritime adviser. "Future engagement topics will include navigation, training, personal protective equipment, and naval engineering. This engagement series will culminate in a search and rescue exercise in the CNMI, currently slated for August."

The U.S. Coast Guard's last Saipan-based search and rescue exercise took place in August 2022 with 40 CNMI participants from six CNMI agencies and eight Coast Guard members.

"The excellent participation, support, and free exchange of experience and ideas made for a successful endeavor," according to Lt. Henry Dunphy, the chief of emergency management and force readiness at U.S. Coast Guard FM/SG.

That exercise simulated a response to a capsized kayak off Tanapag Harbor, leading to tabletop discussions on planning, safety, and communications, followed by search patterns and boat handling off-shore the following day.



Personnel from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB 215) work with CNMI Department of Public Safety - Boating Safety and CNMI Customs and Biosecurity - Marine Unit crews on March 21, 2023, on Saipan.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, personnel hold training and search and rescue exercises in Guam, the CNMI, and the Compact of Free Association states. They evaluate notification and response procedures and identify shortfalls in communication and coordination of response during

SAR incidents. Each agency holds individual capabilities that complement each other's efforts and bolsters the overall success of the SAR system.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises nearly 300 personnel and provides a significant portion of the U.S. Coast

Guard's enduring regional presence in Oceania. These teams conduct the service's six major operational mission programs: maritime law enforcement, maritime response, maritime prevention, marine transportation system management, maritime security operations, and defense operations.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB23-GOV-42300005:**

**SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023**

**ADA COMPLIANCE OF THE FIRST FLOOR, WALKWAY, AND RAMP OF THE PARKING OF THE CDA BUILDING**

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the *ADA Compliance of the First Floor, Walkway, and Ramp of the Parking of the CDA Building* in San Jose, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **March 13, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CDA Building located in San Jose, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, March 28, 2023**. Proposers may also request to participate virtually via Zoom Meetings five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at [syamada.cip@gmail.com](mailto:syamada.cip@gmail.com) no later than **4:30 PM ChST, April 4, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, April 12, 2023**.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor, CNMI

**/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director**  
CNMI Procurement Services

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Instrument Sciences*  
Email: [rosshearingaids@yahoo.com](mailto:rosshearingaids@yahoo.com)



# USCG aircrew engages with Guam police and US Navy

By CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

SARA MUIR

U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES MICRONESIA /  
SECTOR GUAM

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—U.S. Coast Guard aircrew members conducted a subject matter exchange with members of the Guam Police Department Special Operations Division and fellow aviators from the U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 in Guam on March 10, 2023.

“We welcome the opportunity to increase interoperability among our partners here,” said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. “A big part of our role here is to safeguard the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Ensuring our team has a strong understanding of the region, each agency’s capability, and what resources can be brought to bear in any given situation is essential to our shared success.”

As with the recent hoist training conducted with the Guam Fire Department, the engagements allowed the crews to discuss the capabilities and procedures of each agency. Eleven members of the Guam Police Department



U.S. Coast Guard aircrew members conduct a subject matter exchange with fellow aviators from the U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 in Guam in March 10, 2023.

Special Operations Division came to the hangar to share information and experiences with the aircrew of an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter deployed to Guam from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii. The U.S. Coast Guard frequently partners with the division for search and rescue cases and law enforcement. Such

events include the recent search for the missing hiker at Sella Bay and escorts of the two cruise ships that called on Guam.

Following the Guam Police Department visit, the aircrew hosted seven members of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25. While not a primary mission for the Navy, HSC-25 frequently

partners with the U.S. Coast Guard and local agencies to conduct search and rescue in and around Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. HSC-25 members took part in several cases over the last six weeks including the Sella Bay hiker search, the search for the missing diver off Guam’s westside, and the motor vessel *Senor Dung*, which sank between Guam and Rota, forcing the three men aboard to abandon ship.

U.S. Coast Guard enlisted aircrews not only stand flight duty, but also maintain their aircraft. Throughout the day, the crew conducted their regular maintenance on the aircraft. Various schedules are

kept ensuring the helicopter is ready to fly. This maintenance was part of what is done every seven-days and is essentially an extended post flight inspection looking for wear and tear and anything out of place.

The MH-65 Dolphin helicopter is a short-range recovery helicopter used to perform search and rescue, law enforcement, and homeland security missions. It is certified for all-weather and night-time operations, except for icy conditions, and it routinely deploys aboard certified cutters providing manned airborne surveillance and interdiction capabilities. The airframe was first added to the Coast Guard inventory in 1984

and has undergone several upgrades.

In recent memory, these operations mark the first deployment of a Dolphin helicopter crew to Guam. The District 14 assigned aircraft are primarily used as a search and rescue platform in the Main Hawaiian Islands and as an augment aboard major cutters on deployment to extend their range for search and rescue, law enforcement, and surveillance while at sea. The aircrews frequently participate in community relations events and subject matter exchanges to build awareness for service capabilities and encourage interest in the aviation career field.

“It’s always a pleasure getting to work with other government agencies and our counterparts at HSC-25,” said Lt. Ryan Brown, U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter pilot. “We appreciate the hospitality everyone in Guam has shown and look forward to continuing our work together in the future.”

The aircrew’s operations have precedent. In 1947 the service established a Coast Guard air detachment consisting of one PBY-6A Catalina, an amphibious aircraft, and crew at the Naval Air Station in Agana, Guam, to provide aerial logistics support for LORAN stations in the southern Marianas and western Caroline Islands. The Catalina was well suited to operations in the islands, able to haul cargo but also land in the shallow lagoons and offload to skiffs. Their primary mission was to resupply the Marianas Section LORAN stations, although they did assist in search and rescue. The unit disestablished in 1972, as the need for Coast Guard air support to the LORAN mission decreased and commercial aviation service availability improved.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises nearly 300 personnel throughout the response, prevention, administrative, and logistics departments supporting the Joint Rescue Sub-Center, three fast response cutters, a small boat station, and a marine safety detachment in Saipan. The unit provides a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard’s enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting our six major operational mission programs: maritime law enforcement, maritime response, maritime prevention, marine transportation system management, maritime security operations, and defense operations.



## NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

**POSITION:** PROGRAM AIDE  
**PAY-LEVEL:** P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10  
**REPORTS TO:** PROGRAM COORDINATOR

#### GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a non-exempt position responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the office and its programs. The Program Aide reports to the Program Coordinator and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ At least a High School Diploma or its equivalence including a GED and other similar certificates;
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer usage including but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications;
- ✓ Must possess a valid CNMI driver’s license; and
- ✓ Must be able to operate various office equipment including but not limited to telephones, faxes, and copier machines.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include **(1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms.** Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Gregory Borja at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / (670) 287-0652 [message] or email at gborja@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

**Deadline to submit applications will be on March 31, 2023 at 4pm**



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, January 31, 2022, **Ramon B. Camacho dba Camacho Rental** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Affordable Rental Housing Development Program. On January 9, 2023, Ramon B. Camacho has taken office as Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Said applicant is aware of the housing needs of Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) families who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. The CNMI has not been able to recover from this disaster quickly enough to meet the community’s housing needs. The Camacho Rental project proposes to rebuild four (4) units, including two (2) units of two-bedrooms and two (2) units of three-bedrooms. The proposed project will contribute to addressing some of the market demands for affordable housing and the current housing shortages our island is experiencing. Ramon B. Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR § 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

**Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Tuesday, April 4, 2023.**

Dated this 20th day of March, 2023.

/s/  
JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director



# New 777K square miles of NMS in remote Pacific alarms Amata

WASHINGTON, D.C.—American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-AS) is raising urgent concerns about President Joe Biden's initiation of an enormous new National Marine Sanctuary for 777,000 square miles around the Pacific Remote Islands. She questions why the administration made no effort to discuss this issue with the Pacific delegations or to notify us even at the recent Interagency Group of Insular Areas forum that such a drastic change to our way of life was even being considered.

"What changed? Why were we not given the courtesy of a discussion or even advance notice of this policy?" she asked in a letter Thursday to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. "I strongly oppose any new National Marine Sanctuary designations in the Pacific, especially ones that are implemented by executive order without consultation with native Samoans and other Pacific Islanders who have cared for and relied on these waters for millennia. This action would destroy American Samoa's fishing industry, which makes up about 80% of our local economy, contribute to regional

food insecurity, and do nothing to address the predatory [Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated] fishing practices of the Chinese Communist Party."

Presidential proclamations created the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument initially, then tripled it in size, placing over 495,000 square miles of the Pacific off limits. Now, Biden is setting in motion yet another huge expansion or new NMS designation to 777,000 square miles, some four times the size of California, which Amata describes as a "detrimental action to American Samoa and U.S. food security, with the perverse effect of mainly benefiting China's fishing fleet."

"I also cannot see how destroying the economy of the southern-most U.S. territory and declaring vast sections of the Pacific unfishable for our neighbors in a time of strategic competition with China will help our diplomatic efforts in the region. This action is especially more concerning given that our law enforcement efforts and U.S. Coast Guard presence in the region are

limited. This action is tantamount to the federal government tying our hands while CCP fishing vessels rob our house," Amata said.

"This expansion is also unprecedented, as no regional and local actors were even consulted before the President's announcement.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, which is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to make fishery-management decisions for the PRIMNM, was similarly left in the dark. Essentially, the administration replaced the regional mechanisms in place to ensure that local equities are weighed with a White House tweet.

"The administration's action in the Pacific continues a reckless pattern of abuse of the Antiquities Act to rope off millions of acres of lands and waters with a dangerous disregard for the people who rely on these areas or even enforcement mechanisms to ensure no one else benefits from these closures. As has been well put by Sen. Mike Lee, whose state had 1.3 million acres declared as the Bears Ears National

Monument despite local opposition, this constitutes a 'midnight monument spree' that disregards the will of the local populations. Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo also decried the national monument declaration in his state as a 'federal confiscation' that will 'cost Nevadans for generations to come.' The same is true for American Samoans, who could see their economy destroyed by this federal confiscation of waters without respect to our wishes," she added.

"In short, this action seems to be a knee-jerk reaction to placate environmental activists who are hostile to, or at the very least ignorant of, the ways of life of people who actually live in the Pacific. As one of the most senior elected officials from the Pacific region, I implore you and the administration to reconsider this brash policy action that benefits the U.S. in no way while paving the way for CCP fishing companies to extend their reach into the Western and South Pacific.

"I urge you to consult with our governor and our industry stakeholders to find reasonable ways to bolster conservation efforts, strengthen American Samoan fishing, and address our national food security. The administration

must allow the WPFMC to do their job under the law and manage the waters under its jurisdiction with buy-in from regional actors, as former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke recommended during his tenure. The Pacific needs proper fishing management instead of outright and unfair fishing bans in our own waters.

She concludes, "I have spent my life in the region. I have grown up in these waters. I cannot sit idly by while the country that American Samoans love mortgag-

es their future for absolutely nothing in return. American Samoans are not against conservation; in fact, our ancestors have been the chief custodians of these very same waters for centuries. We have been doing conservation work since before we became part of the United States. What we do oppose, however, is conservation by confiscation without consultation, and without regard to the local economic impacts. I urge you again to reconsider this dangerous policy." (PR)

## » 'Executive action ignores local indigenous consultation'

## UOG agri students receive scholarship in honor of farmer, educator



The scholarship recipients are joined by College of Natural & Applied Sciences dean Lee Yudin and senior vice president and provost Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez during Charter Day on March 2, 2023. From left, Shawn Wegner; Tim de La Cruz; Kristina Sayama; Dean Yudin; award recipients Christopher Certeza, Joshua Artuz, Laura Layan, Ha'ani Bettis, Lara Mozloun, Stephanie Santos, and Aubrie Uson; Katrina Perez; and Borja Enriquez.

Seven agriculture students from the University of Guam College of Natural & Applied Sciences were awarded the Tanom Bernard Watson Scholarship during the university's Charter Day on March 2, 2023. The scholarship honors the legacy of the late Bernard Watson, a farmer and agro-ecologist who was active in Guam's farming community and with UOG for more than 30 years as an innovator, collaborator, and educator.

Ha'ani Bettis, a second-time recipient of the award, said she is proud to see a growing interest in agriculture on the island and that she hopes to

make an impact in the agricultural community.

"My future goals are to establish a community space in the south where we can grow and process our own food tying in CHamoru culture and sustainable progress," she said. The students collectively received \$2,500.

The 2023 Tanom Bernard Watson Scholarship recipients are:

- Joshua Artuz, sophomore, Tropical Agriculture Production Track
- Ha'ani Bettis, senior, Tropical Agriculture Production Track
- Christopher Certeza, senior, Agriculture & Natural Resource Science Track

■ Laura Layan, Tropical Agriculture Production Track

■ Lara Mazloun, junior, Human Nutrition & Food Sciences Track

■ Stephenie Santos, senior, Agriculture & Natural Resource Science Track

■ Aubrie Uson, junior, Agriculture & Natural Resource Science Track

The scholarship is posted and awarded annually through the UOG Endowment Foundation. Community members interested in contributing to the Tanom Bernard Watson Scholarship fund may contribute through the UOG Endowment Foundation at (671) 735-2957 or <https://give.uog.edu/>. (UOG)

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

### INVITATION FOR BID

CPA-IFB-002-23

### PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR AND MOWER TO BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor & Mower for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package may be picked up beginning March 14, 2023 at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: "Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-002-23. CONFIDENTIAL"

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 14, 2023**. Bid opening will be at 3:00 p.m. same day at the Procurement Department, 2nd Floor—Departure Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to [sharene.manglona@cnmports.com](mailto:sharene.manglona@cnmports.com) (Rota Ports Manager) with copy to [atudela@cnmports.com](mailto:atudela@cnmports.com) (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than April 3, 2023. **Any question or clarification will not be entertained after this date.** Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA  
Executive Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE ARFF BUILDING BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-23

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the ARFF Building, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, CNMI. The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **March 20, 2023**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, credit card or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. CHST, April 19, 2023**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than **ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount**. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA  
Deputy Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 60Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Latest IPCC report the latest alarm we can't ignore about the warming Earth

**T**he new U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report makes very clear what we stand to lose in the next decade without a significant course correction: a chance at a "livable and sustainable future for all." Our home, the Earth, is on fire and we need to act.

The arguments against contending with the impending impacts of man-made climate change were never great, but they seem downright self-destructive now. We understand that data can have different interpretations and no predictive models are perfect, but at some point you have to trust that there is an observable reality that we can measure. It is getting hotter and sea levels are rising.

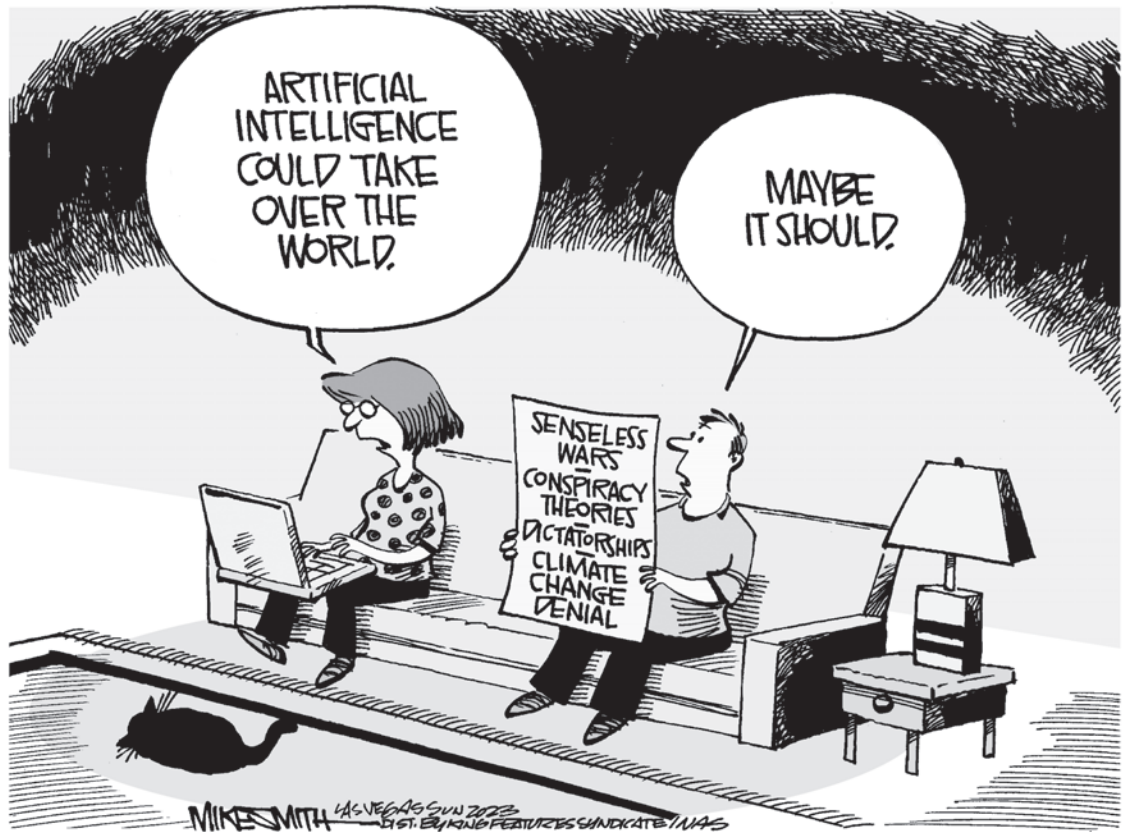
The consensus of scientists and researchers from different countries and backgrounds working together is about as close to the absolute truth as we're going to get, and that truth is looking dire. We can wait and see if they were right, at which point it will be too late to actually do anything about it, or we can act now and stave off events that will almost certainly cause global devastation, kill millions of people worldwide, and become exponentially harder to reverse.

In fact, we don't have to wait anymore. Claims that these are natural climate fluctuations that we shouldn't worry about ring hollow to Californians whose homes have gone up in flames, Puerto Ricans dealing with Hurricane Maria's devastation for years, or Buffalonians whose loved ones froze to death in December's blizzard.

Extreme weather is becoming routine, and it will only get more routine if governments around the world don't commit to aggressive intervention, including a massive reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Fortunately, the report lays out a clear road map for getting where we need to be.

Unfortunately, that road map will have to be implemented by political leaders often more concerned about short-term electoral cycles. It was 16 years ago that the IPCC and Al Gore won a Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to highlight the dangers of climate change. The clock keeps ticking towards catastrophe.

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## When an Israeli minister denies Palestinians are a people, there is little hope for peace

**“M**r. Chairman,” read the letter signed by the prime minister of Israel Yitzhak Rabin sent to Yasser Arafat. “In response to your letter of September 9, 1993, I wish to confirm to you that, in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter, the Government of Israel has decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East peace process.”

The exchange of letters of recognition, followed by an uneasy handshake on the White House lawn, ended years of attempts at mutual negation by Israelis and Palestinians. The Declaration of Principles that was signed that same day and witnessed by President Bill Clinton has since failed, in part due to the assassination of Rabin by an Israeli extremist named Yigal Amir.

Now, nearly 30 years later, another Israeli extremist is negating what is stated about the Palestinian people while holding a top position in the Israeli government. However, this extremist is not only allowed to spew his hatred and incitement, but he is also able to execute policies as part of his special status in the government overseeing what happens in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who called for the Palestinian town of Hawara to be “erased,” has now said that Palestinians have no rights because “there is no such thing as a Palestinian people.” He called Palestinians an invention. “Is there a Palestinian history or culture? There is none,” he said.

His speech was made in France on Sunday, while standing at a podium with a map in the colors of the Israeli flag showing Israel with expanded boundaries that include the occupied Palestinian territories, Jordan and parts of Lebanon and Syria.

Palestinians should not have to defend themselves and restate their history on their land. Nor should countries in the region have to defend their sovereign lands. There is a lot to be said for the silence of the Israeli government and other nations on Smotrich's comments. France's silence is particularly disturbing, since it is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

If Smotrich's vile statement and the expansionist map are not representative of the current Netanyahu coalition government, then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needs to remove Smotrich from his top position. But in fact, much of Smotrich's sentiment does reflect the agenda of the government itself.

By **DAOUD KUTTAB**  
Los Angeles Times

*Daoud Kuttub is a Palestinian journalist and a former professor of journalism at Princeton University. @daoudkuttub*



After all, the coalition agreement that allowed Netanyahu to win a thin majority in the Israeli Knesset states clearly that the Palestinian lands—the West Bank and home to nearly 3 million Palestinians—is part of the God-given land of Israel, and that Israel will annex those lands when the time is appropriate.

Denying the existence of the Palestinian people and even the hints of Israeli expansions in the region wipes out hope for promise of the two-state solution. While the world has recognized Israel since its inception in 1948, it has hinted at recognizing

**Palestinians should not have to defend themselves and restate their history on their land.**

Palestine. Many European parliaments have called on their executive branches to recognize Palestine, but apart from Sweden, that has not happened.

Palestinians at the U.N. have asked that the Security Council recognize Palestine as a state under occupation, but Washington has balked at the idea. A Gallup poll this week shows

that 49% of Democrats support Palestinians, while only 38% support Israel. Public views, in Israel and abroad, are shifting as the Netanyahu government embraces extreme right-wing views and policies.

The U.S., along with Jordan and Egypt, have been working hard in Aqaba and Sharm el-Sheikh to de-escalate tensions before the start of the holy month of Ramadan this week, but Israeli leaders appear to be intent on adding fuel to the fire of conflict. What is needed now is not another useless attempt at de-escalation or even the lip service of a two-state solution. What is needed is a political horizon.

Without hope, it is hard to convince ordinary Palestinians that there will be peace. The Israeli occupation, along with the unruly and illegal Jewish settlers, must not be allowed to continue oppressing Palestinians. Unless there is hope, there will not be any prospects for long-term stability or peace. Allowing Smotrich to deny the existence of the Palestinian people is to give license to further violence. The only way forward is to begin a real political process now.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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## Provide a résumé, cover letter and access to your brain? The creepy race to read workers' minds

**M**odern workers increasingly find companies no longer content to consider their résumés, cover letters and job performance. More and more, employers want to evaluate their brains.

Businesses are screening prospective job candidates with tech-assisted cognitive and personality tests, deploying wearable technology to monitor brain activity on the job and using artificial intelligence to make decisions about hiring, promoting and firing people. The brain is becoming the ultimate workplace sorting hat—the technological version of the magical device that distributes young wizards among Hogwarts houses in the “Harry Potter” series.

Companies touting technological tools to assess applicants' brains promise to dramatically “increase your quality of hires” by measuring the “basic building blocks of the way we think and act.” They claim their tools can even decrease bias in hiring by “relying solely on cognitive ability.”

But research has shown that such assessments can lead to racial disparities that are “three to five times greater than other predictors of job performance.” When social and emotional tests are part of the battery, they may also screen out people with autism and other neurodiverse candidates. And applicants may be required to reveal their thoughts and emotions through AI-based, gamified hiring tools without fully understanding the implications of the data being collected. With recent surveys showing that more than 40% of companies use assessments of cognitive ability in hiring, federal employment regulators have rightly begun to pay attention.

Once workers are hired, new wearable devices are integrating brain assessment into workplaces worldwide for attention monitoring and productivity scoring on the job. The SmartCap tracks worker fatigue, Neurable's Enten headphones promote focus and Emotiv's MN8 earbuds promise to monitor “your employees' levels of stress and attention using ... proprietary machine learning algorithms”—though, the company assures, they “cannot read thoughts or feelings.”

The growing use of brain-oriented wearables in the workplace

will undoubtedly put pressure on managers to use the insights gleaned from them to inform hiring and promotion decisions. We are vulnerable to the seductive allure of neuroscientific explanations for complex human phenomena and drawn to measurement even when we don't know what we should be measuring.

Relying on AI-based cognitive and personality testing can lead to simplistic explanations of human behavior that ignore the broader social and cultural factors that shape the human experience and predict workplace success. A cognitive assessment for a software engineer may test for spatial and analytical skills but ignore the ability to collaborate with people from diverse backgrounds. The temptation is to turn human thinking and feeling into puzzle pieces that can be sorted into the right fit.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission seems to have awakened to these potential problems. It recently issued draft enforcement guidelines on “technology-related employment discrimination,” including the use of technology for “recruitment, selection, or production and performance management tools.”

While the commission has yet to clarify how employers can comply with nondiscrimination statutes while using technological assessments, it should work to ensure that cognitive and personality testing is limited to employment-related skills lest it intrude on the mental privacy of employees.

The growing power of these tools may tempt employers to “hack” candidates' brains and screen them based on beliefs and biases, assuming such decisions aren't unlawfully discriminatory because they aren't directly based on protected characteristics. Facebook “likes” can already be used to infer sexual orientation and race with considerable accuracy. Political affiliation and religious beliefs are just as easily identifiable. As wearables and brain wellness programs begin to track mental processes over time, age-related cognitive decline will also become detectable.

All of this points to an urgent need for regulators to develop specific rules governing the use of cognitive and personality testing in the workplace. Employers should be required to obtain informed consent from candidates before they undergo

By **NITA FARAHANY**

Los Angeles Times



*Nita Farahany is a professor of law and philosophy at Duke University and the author of The Battle for Your Brain: Defending the Right to Think Freely in the Age of Neurotechnology.*

cognitive and personality assessment, including clear disclosure of how candidates' data is being collected, stored, shared and used. Regulators should also require that assessments be regularly tested for validity and reliability to ensure that they're accurate, reproducible and related to job performance and outcomes—and not unduly sensitive to factors such as fatigue, stress, mood or medications.

Assessment tools should also be regularly audited to ensure that they don't discriminate against candidates based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability, thoughts or emotions. And companies developing and administering these tests should regularly update them to account for changing contextual and cultural factors.

More broadly, we should consider whether these methods of assessing job applicants are promoting excessively reductionist views of human abilities. That's especially true as the capabilities of human workers are more frequently compared with those of generative AI.

While the use of cognitive and personality assessments is not new, the increasing sophistication of neurotechnology and AI-based tools to decode the human brain raises important ethical and legal questions about cognitive liberty.

Employees' minds and personalities should be subject to the most stringent protection. While these new tests may offer some benefits for employers, they must not come at the cost of workers' privacy, dignity and freedom of thought.

## Who are you calling old? An expanding 'middle age' upends everything

**I**'ve been thinking about death lately. Turning 50 can do that to a person.

I exercise regularly, drink water ... all of that. But the reality is the life expectancy of a U.S. resident is 76, so most of my sand has run out. And I'm good with it—although that whole Cologuard at-home colon screening was weird.

What really got me thinking about death is that when I was born, life expectancy for an American man was around 67. Back then turning a half century probably felt a little more ominous. But a funny thing happened on my way to a midlife crisis: The location changed.

Between 1971 and 2020 the number of 50-somethings grew from 53 million to 118 million. By 2060, 1 in 4 Americans will be over 65. None of these numbers are new to us, but the manner in which we talk about aging has been slow to catch up.

For one thing, we continue to define what it means to be old by outdated ideas of youth. U.S. law accepts 18 as adult in part because of the politics surrounding the Vietnam draft. Modern research suggests most human brains take 25 years to fully develop. The 18-49 demographic, the one advertisers salivate over, also became fixed in our culture in the early 1970s, back when life expectancy in the U.S. was under 60. By 2050, people over 50 will account for 61 cents of every U.S. dollar spent.

That seismic shift in demographics is one of the reasons entitlements such as Social Security are under stress. It's why debate over President Biden's bid for reelection is as focused on his age as it is on his policies. It's why the streets of Paris are filled with protesters—and flames.

According to The New York Times, most of the European Union has already lifted retirement age to over 65 in response to a population that's living longer. France had been at 62. Now it's 64, and President Emmanuel Macron is probably going to

lose his job over that shift despite the pragmatism of it all.

The year the United Nations began keeping track of global data, life expectancy was just 52.5 years of age. That was in 1960. Today the global average is almost 73. Humans are living two decades longer than they did when a 43-year-old John F. Kennedy became the youngest U.S. president.

The breakthroughs in medicine and nutrition that made this possible haven't just thrown off the math behind French pensions and the U.S. healthcare system. They have shifted the fulcrum that divides youth from old age. They have redefined what it means to be “middle age” by extending the length of life as a whole.

Healthy people in the developed world are not “old” when they reach 62. A societal expectation to work a few years longer is in many ways a good sign. More and more of us are likely to be hitting a new stride in our career—or even embarking on second or third acts.

The ultra-physical world of sports, with its history of very young “retirement,” gives us a preview. Roger Federer retired from tennis last year at 41, and Serena Williams did the same at 40, both with multiple “oldest to” accolades to their names. Tom Brady was 45 as he stunned crowds through the latest NFL season. Last season LeBron James became the oldest player in the NBA ever to average 30 points or more per game. Leading the Astros in 2022, Dusty Baker became the oldest manager to win the World Series. The average age of Olympic athletes in 2021 had risen by two years compared with the 1992 Games.

Two years ago, Phil Mickelson became the oldest major champion at 50, the minimum age to qualify for golf's senior tour. That age requirement is a relic of the tour's

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times



*LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.*

humble beginnings from back in 1937, when life expectancy was just 58. Most everything else about the sport has changed—equipment, clothing, even who is allowed to play. Despite all of the advancements in science and medicine that have clearly extended human life, we still use an age cutoff from a bygone era. It doesn't represent where we are today and more importantly where we are headed.

A survey by ProPublica a few years ago found that 56% of older Americans had either been let go after 50 or been forced to retire. You know the routine—shareholders, budget cuts, yada, yada, yada. Cutting the high end of the payroll has long been a tool to improve the bottom line, but how will that play out in 2060 when 1 in 4 Americans are “old”?

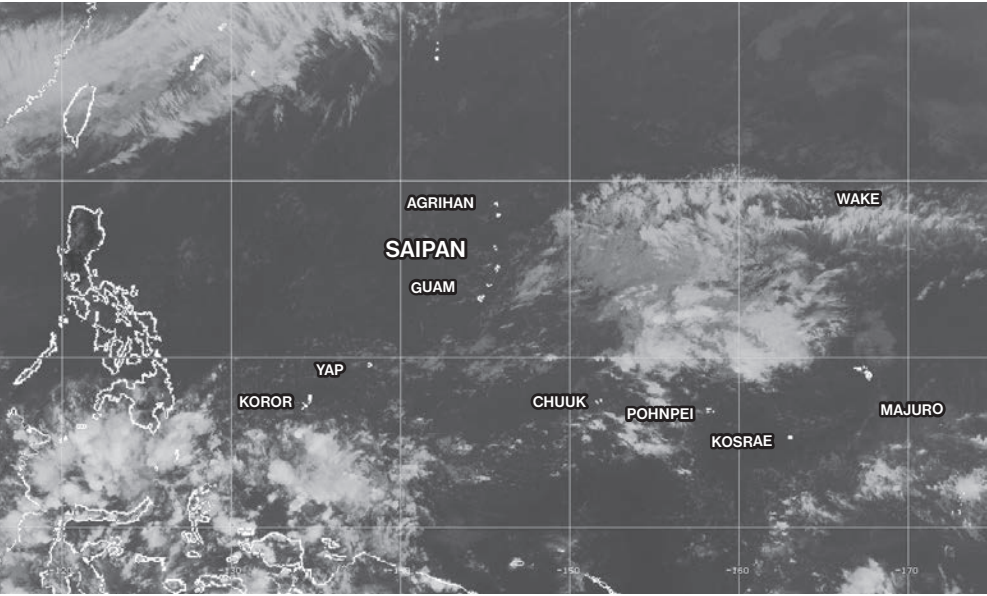
We are in the midst of a fascinating global paradigm shift, parallel to the “great resignation” of recent years in which young people have challenged what work and employment looks like. The evolving expectations for 60-something workers are forcing us to reconsider, even re-legislate, what constitutes an old person.

And it's about damn time.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy		A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:05 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, moderate to fresh trade winds and isolated showers prevail. Infrared satellite shows cloudier skies and spotty showers to our east as an ill-defined group of trade-wind troughs interacts with an upper-level trough. Combined seas are around 7 to 8 feet with virtually all energy from ENE swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Isolated Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:13 AM	11:41 PM	-
Tuesday	11:02 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:36 AM	11:54 AM
Thursday	-	1:27 AM	12:47 PM
Friday	-	2:15 AM	1:40 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 60°	
Beijing	Sunny	68° / 37°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	69° / 65°	
Honolulu	Sunny	83° / 71°	
London	Rain	54° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	70° / 47°	
Manila	Sunny	93° / 77°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 44°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 75°	
New York	Sunny	61° / 42°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 42°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	51° / 34°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	65° / 43°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	73° / 64°	
San Francisco	Sunny	56° / 41°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	57° / 37°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 47°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	67° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:24 AM	High Tide	1.61	
5:41 AM	Low Tide	1.11	
10:34 AM	High Tide	1.66	
6:12 PM	Low Tide	0.01	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

### INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun				
				3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Business

## Chamber hosts successful Q1 Networking Mixer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
“Sippin’ and Taxes, Tax Trivia Night” winner JCM with Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Guerrero, left, and Chamber executive director Kim Camacho, right.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
“Sippin’ and Taxes, Tax Trivia Night” first runner-up Team Tic-Ta with Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Guerrero, left, and Chamber executive director Kim Camacho, right.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
“Sippin’ and Taxes, Tax Trivia Night” second runner-up Team Bulalo with Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Guerrero, left, and Chamber executive director Kim Camacho, right.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted its 1st Quarter Networking Mixer on March 22, 2023 at the Naked Fish Bar and Grill with special guest speaker Dave Burger, who shared insights on tax updates and actions that he hopes will better the CNMI tax system and potentially attract investors to the island.

The theme for the mixer was “Sippin’ and Taxes, Tax Trivia Night,” and a number of Chamber members and future Chamber members were in attendance and participated in the Tax Trivia which included 13 tax trivia questions with four trivia teams, Team Tic-Tax, Team Just 2, Team

Bulalo, and Team JCM.

Second runner up was Team Bulalo from BCA, LLC., first Runner up was Team Tic-Tax, a combination of members from Pacifica Insurance, Angil Designs, and Pacific Subsea, and first place winner was JCM from Joeten Motors Co.

“Congratulations to all the winners of the trivia, thank you for supporting the Chamber, we look forward to having you at the next mixer. The mixer was a success, said executive director Kim Camacho. This was the first mixer of the year and we look forward to about three more mixers this year. Tonight’s event was filled with team building skills and

effective communication, networking opportunities, and good vibes. It also allowed us to get in touch with members who aren’t able to make our monthly membership meetings and allowed for businesses to mingle with one another and share the different industries they serve.”

The Chamber would like to thank its mixer host, Chamber member Naked Fish Bar and Grill, for providing the venue and chasers and special thanks to guest speaker, Dave Burger.

“Lastly, un dankalun na si yu’us ma’ase yan ghilisow to our prize sponsors Chamber

members, Pacific Trading Co., MarPac Saipan, D&Q Distributors, and Naked Fish Bar and Grill,” said Camacho.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan’s private sector.

Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com), call 234-7150, or visit the 4th Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Room 413). (PR)

## Search on for missing in deadly explosion at chocolate factory

**WEST READING, Pa.** (AP)—An explosion at a chocolate factory in Pennsylvania on Friday killed three people and left four people missing, authorities said. One person was pulled alive from the rubble overnight.

Rescue crews using dogs and imaging equipment continued to search through the rubble Saturday—hours after the blast that erupted just before 5 p.m. Friday at the R.M. Palmer Co. plant in the borough of West Reading, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia.

West Reading Borough Chief of Police Wayne Holben said the death toll rose on Saturday with the discovery of a third body at the site. The Berks County Medical Examiner and Coroner on Saturday night also confirmed three fatalities.

Borough Fire Chief Chad Moyer said four people remained missing as emergency personnel continue searching for victims and state and local fire investigators examine the scene to determine a cause.

“Due to the violence

of the explosion and the amount of time that has passed, the chance of finding survivors is decreasing rapidly,” Moyer said. “However, please be assured that our primary goal is accounting for all missing individuals and reuniting them with their loved ones.”

Holben earlier said the rescue of one person from the rubble “provides hope that others still may be found.” Rescue workers were continuing a thorough search using specialized equipment and techniques. Officials said dogs and imaging equipment were being used to look for signs of life during the careful removal of debris.

The blast destroyed one building and damaged a neighboring building. Roadways near the site will be closed until Monday at 8 a.m., Holben said.

“It’s pretty leveled,” Mayor Samantha Kaag said of the explosion site. “The building in the front, with the church and the apartments, the explosion was so big that it moved that building four feet forward.”

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Working against the clock to stop a developing banking crisis, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had until sunset on Sunday, March 12, to come up with a plan to calm the U.S. economy.

She quickly turned to someone who had been through the fire before, and on a much larger scale: Hank Paulson.

Paulson, who ran the Treasury Department during the financial crisis in 2008, counseled immediate government action. “It’s really hard to stop or even slow down a bank run. And to do that requires a powerful and quick government response,” Paulson said, recounting what he told Yellen.

A bank run on Silicon Valley Bank had begun earlier in the week. Regulators took it over by that Friday afternoon. The move panicked shareholders and depositors, stirring stark reminders of earlier failures that triggered the Great Recession.

Perhaps no treasury secretary has come to the office with Yellen’s ample resume, including service as the chair of the Federal Reserve and a lifetime of studying economics and finance. That experience was put to a severe test as she worked to assure multiple constituencies, including financial markets, balking Republicans in Congress and President Joe Biden’s White House economic team.

Yellen spent that crucial period two weeks ago assembling Federal Reserve officials; regulators at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; lawmakers, including congressional leaders on banking—Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C.; and Wall Street executives such as Jamie Dimon, the chief executive of J.P. Morgan & Chase.

But few could relate as well as Paulson, who had asked

Congress for authority to buy up \$700 billion in distressed mortgage-related assets from private firms to save the larger U.S. financial system.

His words to Yellen as she navigated the bank collapses: “We are fighting for the survival of our regional banks.”

The Fed defines regional banks as those with total assets between \$10 billion to \$100 billion, not as small as community banks and not as large as national ones. Regional and community banking organizations constitute the largest number of banking institutions supervised by the Federal Reserve.

The crisis became apparent on Wednesday, March 8. Silicon Valley Bank’s chief executive officer, Greg Becker had sent a letter to shareholders stating that the bank would need to raise \$2.25 billion to shore up its finances after suffering significant losses.

The bank held an unusually

high level of uninsured deposits, and many investments in long-term government bonds and mortgage-backed securities had tumbled in value as interest rates rose. That caused depositors on Thursday, March 9, to rush to withdraw their funds en masse. It triggered a bank run.

On the next afternoon, Yellen spoke with Fed Chair Jerome Powell, FDIC head Martin Gruenberg, acting head of the OCC Michael Hsu and San Francisco Fed chair Mary Daly. Regulators rushed to place Silicon Valley Bank into FDIC receivership.

That weekend, staff from Treasury, the Fed, and FDIC began the search for a potential buyer for the bank. Yellen and other federal officials met to ensure the bank could make payroll by the coming Monday, and that no taxpayer money would be used to fund the rescue. And do it all before Asian markets opened for the week.



# Nation

## ‘There’s nothing left’: Deep South tornadoes kill 26

**ROLLING FORK, Miss.** (AP)—Rescuers raced Saturday to search for survivors and help hundreds of people left homeless after a powerful tornado cut a devastating path through Mississippi, killing at least 25 people, injuring dozens, and flattening entire blocks as it carved a path of destruction for more than an hour. One person was killed in Alabama.

The tornado devastated a swath of the Mississippi Delta town of Rolling Fork, reducing homes to piles of rubble, flipping cars on their sides and toppling the town’s water tower. Residents hunkered down in bath tubs and hallways during Friday night’s storm and later broke into a John Deere store that they converted into a triage center for the wounded.

“There’s nothing left,” said Wonder Bolden, holding her granddaughter, Journey, while standing outside the remnants of her mother’s now-leveled mobile home in Rolling Fork. “There’s just the breeze that’s running, going through—just nothing.”

Based on early data, the

### Trump, facing potential indictment, holds defiant Waco rally

**WACO, Texas** (AP)—Facing a potential indictment, Donald Trump took a defiant stance at a rally Saturday in Waco, disparaging the prosecutors investigating him and predicting his vindication as he rallied supporters in a city made famous by deadly resistance against law enforcement.

With a hand over his heart, Trump stood at attention when his rally opened with a song called “Justice for All” performed by a choir of people imprisoned for their roles in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Some footage from the insurrection was shown on big screens displayed at the rally site as the choir sang the national anthem and a recording played of Trump reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The extraordinary display opened Trump’s first rally of his 2024 Republican presidential campaign. He then launched into a speech brimming with resentments and framed the probes, including a New York grand jury investigation, as political attacks on him and his followers.

“You will be vindicated and proud,” Trump said “The thugs and criminals who are corrupting our justice system will be defeated, discredited and totally disgraced.”

Trump’s event at the air-



Wonder Bolden cradles her year-old granddaughter Journey Bolden as she surveys the remains of her mother’s tornado demolished mobile home in Rolling Fork, Miss., Saturday March 25, 2023.

tornado received a preliminary EF-4 rating, the National Weather Service office in Jackson said late Saturday in a tweet. An EF-4 tornado has top wind gusts between 166 mph and 200 mph (265 kph and 320 kph), according to the service.

port grounds in Waco was part of a broader effort by the former president to use the potential indictment as a rallying cry for supporters to maintain his status as the GOP frontrunner in what is expected to be a crowded primary. It came one day after Trump raised the specter of violence should he become the first former president in U.S. history to face criminal charges.

Trump declared his innocence in the Manhattan investigation into a hush money payment made during the 2016 election to porn actor Stormy Daniels to keep her from going public about a sexual encounter she said she had with Trump years earlier. A grand jury hearing the case is expected to meet again on Monday.

Trump said the Manhattan district attorney was investigating him “for something that is not a crime, not a misdemeanor, not an affair.”

Some of Trump’s recent rhetoric, including at the rally, has echoed language he used before the Capitol insurrection by a mob of his supporters seeking to stop the transfer of power to Democrat Joe Biden, who won the presidential election.

Trump declared Saturday that his “enemies are desper-

The Jackson office cautioned it was still gathering information on the tornado.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency announced late Saturday afternoon in a tweet that the death toll had risen to 25 and that

ate to stop us” and that “our opponents have done everything they can to crush our spirit and to break our will.”

He added: “But they failed. They’ve only made us stronger. And 2024 is the final battle, it’s going to be the big one. You put me back in the White House, their reign will be over and America will be a free nation once again.”

Trump could be indicted soon by a Manhattan grand jury investigating a \$130,000 payment that Trump’s longtime lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen, made as Trump was in the throes of his 2016 presidential campaign.

Trump later reimbursed Cohen and his company logged the reimbursements as a legal expense. Cohen has already served time in prison after pleading guilty to campaign finance charges and lying to Congress, among other crimes.

Trump’s eyebrow-raising choice of venue in Waco for his first rally came amid the 30th anniversary of a 51-day standoff and deadly siege between U.S. law enforcement and the Branch Davidians that resulted in the deaths of more than 80 members of the religious cult and four federal agents and has become a touchstone for far-right extremists and militia groups.

dozens of people were injured. Four people previously reported missing had been found.

Other parts of the Deep South were digging out from damage caused by other suspected twisters. One man died in Morgan County, Alabama, the sheriff’s department there said in a tweet.

Throughout Saturday, survivors walked around dazed and in shock as they broke through debris and fallen trees with chain saws, searching for survivors. Power lines were pinned under decades-old oaks, their

### Biden’s pick to lead FAA withdraws amid shaky Senate support

**WILMINGTON, Del.** (AP)—President Joe Biden’s choice to run the Federal Aviation Administration has withdrawn his nomination, a setback for the administration that comes after Denver International Airport CEO Phillip Washington appeared to lack enough support in the closely divided Senate.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg confirmed Washington’s withdrawal in a tweet Saturday night, calling him “an excellent nominee” and blaming undeserved and partisan attacks.

Republicans were united in opposition to Washington, calling him unqualified because of limited aviation experience. Democrats and allied independents still might have pushed the nomination through, but key senators on their side balked at supporting Biden’s pick.

Washington’s fate appeared settled when Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., abruptly called off a sched-

roots torn from the ground.

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves issued a State of Emergency and vowed to help rebuild as he headed to view the damage in an area speckled with wide expanses of cotton, corn and soybean fields and catfish farming ponds. President Joe Biden also promised federal help, describing the damage as “heartbreaking.”

The damage in Rolling Fork was so widespread that several storm chasers—who follow severe weather and often put up livestreams showing dramatic funnel clouds—pleaded for search and rescue help. Others abandoned the chase to drive injured people to the hospital.

It didn’t help that the community hospital on the west side of town was damaged, forcing patients to be transferred. The tornado also mangled a cotton warehouse and ripped the steeple off a Baptist church.

Shedrick Bell, his partner and two daughters crouched in a closet of their Rolling Fork home for 15 minutes as the tornado barreled through. Windows broke as his daughters cried and his partner prayed.

“I was just thinking, ‘If I can still open my eyes and move around, I’m good,’” he said.

Rodney Porter, who lives about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Rolling Fork and belongs to a local fire department, said he didn’t know how anyone survived as he delivered water and fuel to families there.

uled vote last Wednesday—a sign that she lacked enough votes to move the nomination out of committee. She said some senators wanted more information about Washington.

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, who was a Democrat until switching to independent in December, and moderate Democrat Jon Tester of Montana declined to say how they would have voted. A person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that Sinema was holding up the nomination and had indicated her opposition. The person was not authorized to discuss the process publicly and insisted on anonymity.

Before the White House announces a new nominee, it likely will want assurances of support from Sinema, Tester and other moderates.

The FAA has lacked a Senate-confirmed administrator since March 2022. The agency is trying to reassure Americans that air travel is safe despite a surge in close

“It’s like a bomb went off,” he said, describing houses stacked on top of houses. Crews even cut gas lines to the town to keep residents and first responders safe.

The warning the National Weather Service issued as the storm hit didn’t mince words: “To protect your life, TAKE COVER NOW!”

Preliminary information based on estimates from storm reports and radar data indicate that the tornado was on the ground for more than an hour and traversed at least 170 miles (274 kilometers), said Lance Perrilloux, a meteorologist with the weather service’s Jackson, Mississippi, office.

“That’s rare—very, very rare,” he said, attributing the long path to widespread atmospheric instability. “All the ingredients were there.”

Perrilloux said preliminary findings are that the tornado began its path of destruction just southwest of Rolling Fork before continuing northeast toward the rural communities of Midnight and Silver City, then moving toward Tchula, Black Hawk and Winona.

The supercell that produced the deadly twister also appeared to produce tornadoes that caused damage in northwest and north-central Alabama, said Brian Squitieri, a severe storms forecaster with the weather service’s Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

calls between planes this year. It is also struggling with aging technology that failed in January, briefly canceling all takeoffs around the country. And it is still trying to repair its reputation after approving Boeing planes that crashed in 2018 and 2019.

“The FAA needs a confirmed Administrator, and Phil Washington’s transportation & military experience made him an excellent nominee,” Buttigieg tweeted Saturday night. “The partisan attacks and procedural obstruction he has faced are undeserved, but I respect his decision to withdraw and am grateful for his service.”

Washington ran transit agencies in Denver and Los Angeles, but his only aviation-related experience is serving as CEO of the Denver airport for less than two years. He has strong ties to the administration, however—he led Biden’s 2020 transition team for the Transportation Department, which includes the FAA.



# Asia

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Taliban want control of more Afghan diplomatic missions

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The Taliban government is trying to take charge of more Afghan embassies abroad, a spokesman said Saturday, amid their continued international isolation because of restrictions on women and girls. The Taliban initially promised a more moderate rule after their takeover in August 2021, but instead imposed sweeping bans and other measures curtailing basic freedoms. The U.N. and foreign governments have fiercely condemned the restrictions on female education and employment, and the international community remains wary of officially recognizing the Taliban, although some countries retain an active diplomatic mission in Afghanistan, including Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, and China. “The Islamic Emirate has sent diplomats to at least 14 countries and efforts are underway to take charge of other diplomatic missions abroad,” the government’s main spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a video. “Diplomats of the former government are continuing their activities in coordination with the Foreign Ministry.” The administration has sent its diplomats to Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Russia, China, Kazakhstan and other Arab and African countries, according to Mujahid. He gave no further details.

### India’s Rahul Gandhi accuses PM Modi of favoring Adani Group

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India’s top opposition leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he was being targeted because he has raised serious questions about Modi’s relationship with the Indian business conglomerate Adani Group. Gandhi said the objective of his expulsion from Parliament on Friday was to prevent him from speaking in the legislature about his allegation of an infusion of an unaccounted \$3 billion into shell companies owned by the Adani Group, headed by Gautam Adani. “Some of these defense companies are working in drone and missile development and ordnance production. Why is the defense ministry not asking questions,” he said. Gandhi was expelled from Parliament a day after a court convicted him of defamation and sentenced him to two years in prison for mocking the surname Modi in an election speech. The actions against

Gandhi, the great-grandson of India’s first prime minister, were widely condemned by opponents of Modi as the latest assaults against democracy and free speech by a ruling government seeking to crush dissent. Removing Gandhi from politics delivered a major blow to the opposition party he led ahead of next year’s national elections. Gandhi said he was not bothered about losing his seat in Parliament. “My job is to defend the institutions of the country and the voice of people,” he added.

### Thai Prime Minister Prayuth kicks off reelection campaign

**NONTABURI, Thailand** (AP)—Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Saturday officially accepted his party’s nomination as its main candidate to keep the job in the upcoming general election, promising to build a new political climate that does away with decades of conflict. The 69-year-old former general led a military coup in 2014, following months of violent street protests in Bangkok against the elected government. Thailand has suffered from political instability since the army in a 2006 takeover ousted the government of billionaire populist Thaksin Shinawatra. “We will create a new political climate,” Prayuth said in a speech before 1,000 supporters at a convention center on the outskirts of Bangkok, less than a week after he dissolved Parliament to set a May 14 election date. “We will have policies that address issues of the people and the country, and most importantly – and I only need to say one word, I don’t need to expand or anything – we will move beyond conflict,” he said. Prayuth was the banner attraction at a meeting of the recently formed United Thai Nation party, where its full slate of 400 lawmaker candidates was unveiled. “We cannot have any more conflict,” he said. “In the decades that have passed, there have been problems. Don’t forget. Don’t have short term memory. We cannot let it happen again.” Prayuth’s seizure of power in 2014 brought in five years of military enforced stability. But after he was selected prime minister following the 2019 election, there were new outbursts of violence as his government used heavy-handed measures to try to curb student-led pro-democracy demonstrations. Prayuth’s path back to the top looks challenging. Opinion polls put him far behind the

opposition Pheu Thai party’s Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Thaksin’s daughter, as well as a candidate from a progressive party.

### Myanmar lawyer accused of helping army slain by guerrillas

**BANGKOK** (AP)—A veteran corporate lawyer has been shot dead in Myanmar’s biggest city by self-proclaimed urban guerrillas, highlighting the bloody struggle between the military government and its foes in the country’s cities as well as the remote countryside. Min Tayza Nyunt Tin was shot multiple times while driving his car in Yangon on Friday, according to a business colleague, media reports and a statement from the guerrilla group. The group, calling itself Urban Owls, accused him of being a business associate of the country’s military leaders who seized power two years ago, and claimed he helped them launder money in order to buy real estate and business assets abroad in deals totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Its claims could not be independently verified, and a colleague of Min Tayza denied the guerrillas’ allegations. The victim was the founder and CEO of BIZ Law Consult Myanmar, a law firm specializing in intellectual property and trademark law. Media outlets sympathetic to the military reported on the Telegram messaging app that the 56-year-old was shot by members of the People’s Defense Force. It’s a loosely organized armed wing of the pro-democracy National Unity Government, which opposes the military government that was established when the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Many of the opposition forces operate autonomously of the National Unity Government. The army takeover triggered widespread peaceful protests that were quashed with lethal force, triggering armed resistance that U.N. experts now characterize as civil war. Urban guerrillas have carried out targeted killings, arson and small bombings since 2021. Victims included officials and members of the military as well as people believed to be informers or military collaborators. In November 2021, a former navy officer who was the chief finance officer of Myanmar’s military-linked telecommunications company was fatally shot on a Yangon street.

# World

## Putin: Russia will station tactical nukes in Belarus



AP  
Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Russian Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev during their meeting in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, March 25, 2023.

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans on Saturday to station tactical nuclear weapons in neighboring Belarus, a warning to the West as it steps up military support for Ukraine.

Putin said the move was triggered by Britain’s decision this past week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.

Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield and have a short range and a low yield compared with much more powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles. Russia plans to maintain

control over those it sends to Belarus, and construction of storage facilities for them will be completed by July 1, Putin said.

He didn’t say how many nuclear weapons Russia would keep in Belarus. The U.S. government believes Russia has about 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons, which include bombs that can be carried by tactical aircraft, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery rounds.

Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States, noting that the U.S. has nuclear weapons based in Belgium, Ger-

many, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

“We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews,” Putin said, speaking in an interview on state television that aired Saturday night. “We are going to do the same thing.”

Russia has stored its tactical nuclear weapons at dedicated depots on its territory, and moving part of the arsenal to a storage facility in Belarus would up the ante in the Ukrainian conflict by placing them closer to the Russian aircraft and missiles already stationed there.

## Pope expands sex abuse law, reaffirms adults can be victims

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—Pope Francis on Saturday updated a 2019 church law aimed at holding senior churchmen accountable for covering up sexual abuse cases, expanding it to cover lay Catholic leaders and reaffirming that vulnerable adults and not just children can be victims of abuse when they are unable to freely consent.

With the update, Francis made permanent temporary provisions that were passed in 2019 in a moment of crisis for the Vatican and Catholic hierarchy. The law was praised at the time for laying out precise mechanisms to investigate complicit bishops and religious superiors, even though it amounted to bishops policing fellow bishops without any requirement that civil law enforcement be informed.

But implementation has been uneven, and abuse survivors have criticized the Vatican for a continued lack

of transparency about the cases. Their advocates said a wholesale overhaul was necessary, not just Saturday’s minor modifications.

“The Catholic people were promised that (the law) would be ‘revolutionary,’ a watershed event for holding bishops accountable. But in four years, we’ve seen no significant housecleaning, no dramatic change,” said Anne Barrett Doyle, co-director of BishopAccountability.org, an online resource that has identified 40 bishops investigated globally under the new protocols.

The new rules conform to other changes in the Catholic Church’s handling of abuse that were issued in the last four years. Most significantly, they are extended to cover leaders of Vatican-approved associations headed by laymen and women, not just clerics.

The expansion is a response to the many cases that

have come to light in recent years of lay leaders abusing their authority to sexually exploit people under their spiritual care or authority, most recently the L’Arche federation of Jean Vanier.

The update also reaffirms that adults such as nuns or seminarians who are dependent on their bishops or superiors can be victims of abuse. Church law had long held that only adults who “habitually” lack the use of reason could be considered victims in the same sense as minors.

The 2019 law expanded that definition and it is retained in the update, making clear that adults can be rendered vulnerable to abuse as situations present themselves. The inclusion is significant given resistance in the Vatican to the #MeToo pressure to recognize rank and file parishioners who are abused during spiritual direction by a priest as possible victims.



# Health & Wellness

## Ready to Run: Mayo Clinic tips on planning for a long race

You've thought about it for years. You've dreamed of crossing the finish line. It's on your bucket list, or maybe it's become a tradition. You've registered for a long-distance race like a 5K, 10K, half-marathon or marathon. So now's the time to plan and prepare for your big day.

This critical process will be shaped by your experience and fitness level. First, get real and be honest with yourself. It can take eight to 12 months to go from the couch to a full marathon. For some people, it may be a better choice and more realistic goal to plan for a shorter race, like a 5K or half-marathon.

For first-time runners or those looking to restart after taking time off, keep these tips in mind from Troy Hoehn, a licensed athletic trainer in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, and Peter Johnson, a physical therapist, Mayo Clinic Health System, as you plan and prepare for your first big run:

### Assess your fitness level

If you're just starting a running program, you should meet with your primary care clinician and other health care professionals,

such as a physical therapist or athletic trainer. They'll assess your heart and lung capacity and if your body can handle the rigors of long-distance running.

### Pick a training program

If you've run long-distance races before, you might want to try a different plan this time around. Variety can help maintain motivation. If you encountered issues during your previous training or race, it's time to shop around and find a plan that works best for you.

For new runners, your plan should include:

### Adequate time to train

You can complete 5K or 10K training in a few months. For first-time marathon runners, training can take up to a year to build up your tolerance and endurance.

### Cross-training

To avoid injury, your plan should include cross-training—combining weight training, plyometric and other cardiovascular activities, such as biking, rowing or swimming, with your running routine. For rookie runners, a training program that



PETR KIRILLOV/DREAMSTIME/TNS

You've registered for a long-distance race. So now's the time to plan and prepare for your big day.

includes a regimen combining running and walking can help you gradually build up endurance and strength.

### Strength training

Every running program should have a strength training component. This will reduce the imposed loads on your body and prevent overuse injuries, such as tendonitis and stress fractures. Core and hip strength are some of the most important areas to work on.

### Active warm-up

To improve performance, you should spend five to 10 min-

utes of walking or light jogging, along with movements that cover the full range of motion, such as lunges.

### Stretching

Static stretching hasn't been shown to improve performance or reduce injury, but it can feel good after a run, especially if stretching is already part of your usual routine. Stretching can improve range of motion, as well.

### Recovery

Help your body recover with adequate rest in between sessions of exercise. However, consistency is essential to con-

tinue improving your endurance. Novice runners will want to avoid the same exercise multiple days in a row until they build up their tolerance.

### Healthy eating

Quality plans also include nutrition and hydration recommendations. Not only are you eating and drinking for optimum overall health, but you also need these nutrients to support the changes in your body brought on by running.

No matter which training plan you choose, listen to your body, which at times will speak to you loud and clear. The idea of "no pain, no gain" is incorrect. If you have swelling or pain that worsens, don't just power through and follow your plan. Get the problem checked out and be prepared to adjust. Every plan can be modified to meet your needs. While it's common to have muscle soreness after increasing distance, running shouldn't be painful.

### Choose the right running shoes

Now that you've decided to start adding up the miles, it's important to have the right

shoes for the job. Evaluate your feet so that you get the right shoe. Do you have flat feet or a high arch? Each foot type requires a different type of shoe to provide support and reduce the risk of injury.

If you're not sure about your foot arch type, dip your foot in water. Then step on a piece of cardboard and examine the footprint that remains. After examining the footprint, use our chart to determine your foot arch.

When you buy shoes is vital. When you first start training, invest in a new pair, and don't rely on a pair you've had for a while. The older pair will break down too quickly and not provide the support your feet need. A good shoe for long-distance runners typically lasts 300-500 miles. Some runners make the mistake of buying a new pair of shoes right before a race. Instead, buy them a few weeks before the race so you have time to break them in.

Now it's time to lace up and start training. Good luck! (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

## Five ways AI promises to transform organ transplants

By HEATHER CARLSON KEHREN  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Artificial intelligence has the potential to become a valuable tool for transplant to save more patients' lives. Recent studies have already shown promise in using AI to analyze large sets of data to discover important trends and patterns. In this expert alert, Mayo Clinic transplant experts share how this technology may improve outcomes for patients.

"Physicians once practiced medicine without CT scans and with only limited lab tests. Now, these tools are not only commonplace, but they are also critical to treatment decisions. I predict AI will also become an important decision-making tool for physicians," says Mark Stegall, M.D., a Mayo Clinic transplant surgeon and researcher.

Here are five ways AI promises to improve transplant outcomes.

### 1 Preventing the need for a transplant

Research efforts are underway to use AI to detect organ failure earlier. AI also can be used to determine which

early interventions delay the need for a transplant and, in some cases, prevent the need for one altogether.

"Transplantation is something that helps patients live longer, but it can be filled with potential complications. We always strive to discover ways to help patients recover on their own and have better quality and quantity of life," says Rohan Goswami, M.D., a transplant cardiologist and director of heart transplant research at Mayo Clinic in Florida.

### 2 Better match organ donors and recipients

Matching organ donors and recipients is complex. There is hope that AI could help improve the matching process. AI also can help determine whether a donated organ would make for a successful transplant. A recent Mayo Clinic study demonstrated how an AI-based scoring system could be used to analyze transplanted kidney biopsies to determine inflammation levels, important information that helps indicate the health of the transplanted kidney.

### 3 Increasing the number of usable organs

Advances in transplant technology are helping expand the number of organs from deceased donors available for lifesaving transplants. Organ perfusion systems, which are a mechanical device that keep organs viable, allow more time for donor organs to survive outside the body before being transplanted. A study about the use of this new technology to improve organ use rates was recently published by Dr. Goswami and colleagues in the International Journal of Scientific Research. The hope is that AI will help transplant experts better understand which organs would benefit from these technologies before transplant, and which are not suitable for donation.

### 4 Preventing organ rejection

The risk of organ rejection is one of the biggest challenges in transplant medicine. Researchers are turning to AI to help identify patients most at risk for organ rejection. A recent Mayo study published in the European Heart Journal found that an electrocardiogram could potentially be used to predict

the risk of low-grade rejection for heart transplant patients, potentially without requiring a biopsy. There is hope that these advances also will help prevent transplant patient deaths.

### 5 Improving care after transplant

To help prevent rejection, transplant patients are given immunosuppression medication. Because these medications can cause potentially harmful side effects, it is critical to determine the minimum dose necessary for patients to remain healthy. AI mine how a patient's body reacts to immunosuppression and guide when medications should be adjusted. A recent Mayo abstract at the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplant discussed the role of AI electrocardiographs as a predictor of high and at-risk patients after a heart transplant occurred. There is hope that AI could eventually make posttransplant care easier for patients, eliminating the need for routine biopsies and blood draws.

Experts stress that the success of AI depends upon the quality of the data it is based upon. The goal is not to replace a clinician's expertise with AI, but to create another tool to ensure pa-

tients get the best care possible.

"We don't use information blindly and will not follow AI tools blindly. One of the great hopes of AI decision tools is that

they can help integrate many other tools, such as scans and labs, into a model that provides a fuller picture of the patient," Dr. Stegall says.

## Healthy Living

### When licorice is bad for you

*Some black licorice, easily identified by its sharp taste, contains harmful ammonium chloride, or sal-ammoniac.*

### Side effects

If you eat large amounts of licorice containing more than 5 percent sal-ammoniac ...

**Bones lose calcium** Sal-ammoniac changes acidity of blood, causing bones to release calcium to correct the acid imbalance

**Blood pressure rises** Glycyrrhetic acid in licorice interferes with hormones that help regulate blood pressure

Source: Danish Center for Human Nutrition, TNS Photo Service





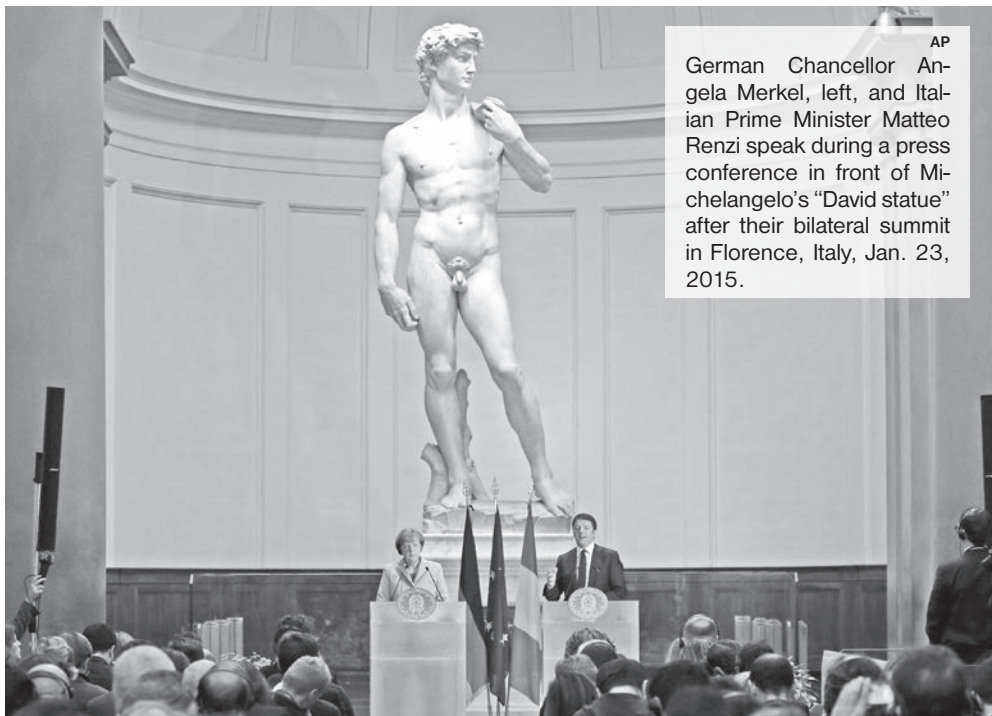
# Life & Style

## Principal resigns after complaints on 'David' statue nudity

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** (AP)—A Florida charter school principal has been forced to resign after a parent complained sixth graders were exposed to pornography during a lesson on Renaissance art that included Michelangelo's "David" sculpture.

The Tallahassee Democrat reported that the principal, Hope Carrasquilla, of Tallahassee Classical School resigned this week after an ultimatum from the school board's chairman.

One parent complained the material was pornographic and two other parents said they wanted to be notified of the lesson before it was given to their children, Carrasquilla said. The instruction also included Michelangelo's "Cre-



ation of Adam" painting and Botticelli's "Birth of Venus."

"It saddens me that my time here had to end this way," Carrasquilla told the paper.

The "David" statue's nudity has been part of a centuries-old debate about art pushing boundaries and the rules of censorship. In the 1500s, metal fig leaves covered the geni-

tals of statues like David when the Roman Catholic Church deemed nudity as immodest and obscene.

The kerfuffle in Florida also prompted social media users to point out similarities to a 1990s episode of "The Simpsons" where characters debate the censorship of the "David" statue.

## Reese Witherspoon, Jim Toth announce plans to divorce



Reese Witherspoon and Jim Toth appear at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 27, 2017.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Reese Witherspoon and her husband say they are divorcing after nearly 12 years of marriage.

The actor-producer and her husband, Hollywood agent Jim Toth, announced their breakup Friday in a joint statement on Instagram. Their wedding anniversary is Sunday.

"It is with a great deal of care and consideration that we have made the difficult decision to divorce," the post said. "We have enjoyed so many wonderful years together

and are moving forward with deep love, kindness and mutual respect for everything we have created together."

Witherspoon and Toth have one son together and they said he remains their biggest priority, asking for privacy.

The statement's authenticity was confirmed by a Witherspoon representative. No records of a divorce filing could be found in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Witherspoon was previously married to actor Ryan Phillippe, with whom she has two children.

## Former 'Family Feud' contestant charged in wife's slaying

**QUINCY, ILL.** (AP)—A former contestant on the long-running television game show "Family Feud" has been charged with first-degree murder and home invasion in the slaying of his estranged wife in western Illinois.

Timothy Bliefnick, 39, pleaded not guilty Friday afternoon at his arraignment in Adams

County Circuit Court in Quincy, according to court records.

Bliefnick was indicted Thursday by a county grand jury, KHQA-TV reported.

The body of Rebecca Bliefnick, 41, was found by a family member inside her Quincy home af-



Bliefnick

ter she failed to pick up her children from school. She had been shot multiple times.

Timothy Bliefnick was arrested March 13. His Quincy home was searched March 1.

The couple was separated and going through divorce

proceedings, the television station reported from court records.

A restraining order had been filed against Timothy Bliefnick, who also filed one against his estranged wife.

In 2020, Timothy Bliefnick and some of his family members appeared on ABC's "Family Feud," KHQA reported.

## Gwyneth Paltrow insists Utah ski collision wasn't her fault

**PARK CITY, Utah** (AP)—Gwyneth Paltrow insisted Friday on the witness stand that a 2016 ski collision at an upscale Utah ski resort wasn't her fault, claiming it began when the man suing her ran into her from behind.

The actor-turned-lifestyle

influencer testified that the crash shocked her—and the way the man's skis veered between her two legs made her worry at first that she was being "violated," she said.

"There was a body pressing against me and a very strange grunting noise," she said.

"My brain was trying to make sense of what was happening," she continued. Paltrow later clarified that after her split-second panic, she realized that the sudden collision wasn't sexual in nature.

After sitting in court for four days, Paltrow remained

calm and collected for more than two hours on the witness stand. Members of the Park City jury sat transfixed while she categorically denied fault for the collision.

Terry Sanderson, the retired optometrist who is suing her, is expected to give an opposing account of the crash when he takes the stand first on Monday.

## Man forgives wife's affair, starts his own

**DEAR ABBY:** I've been married for a little more than 12 years. My wife and I have one child. Unfortunately, like a lot of relationships, we've been stuck in a rough patch for a while now. I learned that she was having an affair a few years ago, which rocked me to the core. I recognized there were cracks forming early on, but, admittedly, I didn't do enough to try to fix them. I ultimately decided to forgive her, and we have tried our best to put things back together.

Last year, I met someone through work with whom I connected on an incredibly deep level, and I found myself to be genuinely happy in a way I hadn't been for ages. It led to an affair that has been going on for a year. This woman desperately wants us to have a life together, as do I, but I'm afraid of what it will do to my child.

Walking away from my long marriage, even with everything that has happened, is difficult to fathom, as is the thought of destroying my child's sense of family and stability. I don't want to hurt either person, but I'm at a loss as to what to do.

**FAILED HUSBAND IN THE EAST**

**DEAR FAILED HUSBAND:** Have you had a heart-to-heart talk with your wife about what you both want? If you haven't, you should. IF you would like to continue your marriage, start working with a licensed marriage and

family therapist now. Your reason for not wanting to break up the family is rational because there is a third person involved, and I'm not talking about your girlfriend. However, if a couple is not happy, it isn't a healthy atmosphere for a child to grow up in.

◆◆◆◆

**DEAR ABBY:** How do you tell a loved one that they have bad hygiene (such as body odor and bad breath)? For the most part, my ex-husband raised my now-adult son. My ex is very clean, so I'm not sure why my son is not. It isn't a medical issue, and it isn't sweat from exercise, it's just body odor.

My son and a couple of his friends seem to have lower standards in this area than is socially acceptable. The rest of his friends have what would be considered normal hygiene. I'm worried because this could affect his career and love life. Is there a way to approach it without hurting his feelings, or should I just let him stink and say nothing?

**WASHING UP IN WASHINGTON**

**DEAR WASHING UP:** Tell your adult son that you have noticed his body odor, that it is unpleasant and that you are concerned about it. You didn't mention how old he is, or whether he has a doctor or a dentist, but everyone should get an annual physical and a semiannual dental wellness checkup.

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Although you say your son's problem isn't a medical issue, there are any number of serious ailments that can cause body odor and bad breath. If he checks out medically and all he really needs is to shower and brush his teeth on a more regular basis, tell him point blank. And while you're at it, tell him his social and work lives could be negatively impacted if he doesn't clean up his act. This is what mothers do, so start now.

◆◆◆◆

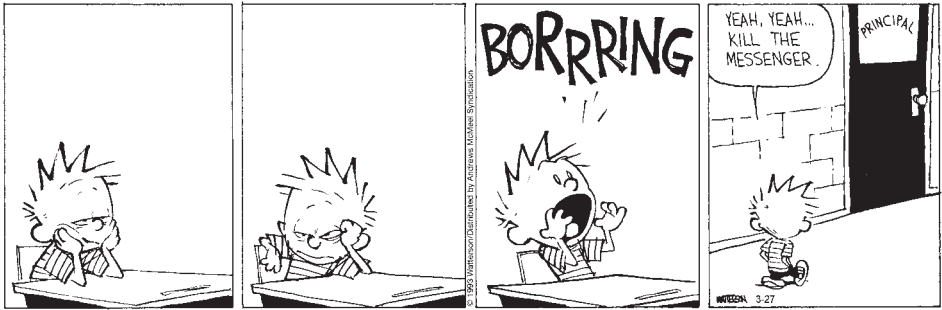
Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 D.C. baseball team  
5 — Mahal  
8 Phone inventor  
12 Historic mission  
14 Actress Falco  
15 Manual  
16 Speeding penalty  
17 Two, in Acapulco  
18 Overacts  
20 British nobles  
23 Ski lift type  
24 Differently  
25 Picnic containers  
28 N.J. summer hrs.  
29 Beckett's no-show  
30 Have bills  
32 Forecast  
34 Shadow  
35 Erstwhile acorns  
36 Dessert wines

**DOWN**

37 Poise  
40 "Kapow!"  
41 Gaming tyro  
42 Test type  
47 Director Kazan  
48 Handel's "Messiah," e.g.  
49 Travel  
50 "The Hang-over" actor  
51 Puppy's cry

**1 New Mexico resort**  
**6 "I love," in Latin**  
**7 Comical compilation**  
**8 Prior to**  
**9 Work on proofs**  
**10 Queue**  
**11 Cask sediment**  
**13 Wall St. deals**  
**19 Beer ingredient**  
**20 Shoe width**  
**21 Designer Gucci**  
**22 Alpha-betic sequence**  
**23 Fusses**  
**25 Ina Garten best-seller**  
**26 Lion's greeting**  
**27 Loretta of "M\*A\*S\*H"**  
**29 Glitzy rock genre**  
**31 Golfer Ernie**  
**33 "What a shame"**  
**34 Hoyden**  
**36 Huff and puff**  
**37 From the start**  
**38 Fishing rod**  
**39 Pork cut**  
**40 Noggin**  
**43 Opposite of "post-"**  
**44 Tram load**  
**45 Corn product**  
**46 Key-stone lawman**

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

**Last Friday's Answer 03/27**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Fergie, 48; Nathan Fillion, 52; Mariah Carey, 54; Pauley Perrette, 54.

**Happy Birthday:** Express yourself, demonstrate your intentions and invite individuals into your circle this year who have something to contribute to your goal. Your dedication and determination will help you finish what you start if you don't let anxiety or anger hold you back. Pioneer your way into the future by thinking outside the box and selling your beliefs and concepts passionately. Your numbers are 6, 12, 18, 23, 31, 36, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Research and preparation will set your mind at ease. Knowing what you are up against will factor into your success. Choose your words wisely and share with like-minded people. Don't lead someone on with a false gesture or empty promise. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll charm others with your insight and progress. Concentrate on getting your intentions up and running before you present what you have to offer. Someone you love or respect will provide insight that sparks an unexpected change of heart. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Pitch in and do what you do best. Your insight, shortcuts and ability to delegate will ensure your success. Be the leader who chooses the best person for each job, and watch your dream become a reality. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You may feel like taking on the world, but until you steady your emotions and are prepared to follow through with your plans, you are

better off working alone, taking care of every detail to ensure success. Leave no room for error. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Think about the possibilities before acting. Don't take a gamble with your reputation or health. Don't feel you have to do everything yourself. Ask for help and you shall receive what you need. Work in conjunction with people who think like you. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You'll learn the most and perfect your skills by taking action. A financial opportunity or contract looks inviting. Let your intelligence lead the way, and use your voice to promote opportunity. See who is willing to pitch in and help. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Emotions will stand in the way when searching for the truth. If the information you receive sounds far-fetched or lacks substance, you should probe for facts and figures that ease your mind before implementing change. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Try something new, and socialize with people you find interesting and informative. Revisit an emotional issue you have yet to resolve. Put boundaries in place if it will help protect you against being misled or taken for granted. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Brace yourself if you are dealing with outside influences. Stick close to home and work on something important to you. Input you receive from those who live under the same roof will encourage you to follow your heart. ★★★★★

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4		2		5					
	2		7		5	8		4			
8	7		3		1		2	6			
7		2			4			9			
5			2		8			3			
		3		7		6	8				
1	4	6									
	5	8		9	7						
2			1	5	6			8			

Difficulty: ★ 3-27  
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

6	5	8	1	3	9	4	7	2
4	7	1	6	8	2	5	3	9
9	3	2	4	7	5	1	6	8
8	4	9	5	1	6	3	2	7
7	6	5	8	2	3	9	1	4
1	2	3	7	9	4	8	5	6
3	8	6	9	5	7	2	4	1
2	1	4	3	6	8	7	9	5
5	9	7	2	4	1	6	8	3

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 3-24  
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## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A personal change geared toward better health, a happier home life and spending time with someone you love will bring long-lasting effects. Growing as an individual, updating your image or making a lifestyle change will give you a new lease on life. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't be too quick to dismiss something someone does. Protect yourself from associating with someone who can make you look bad. Use your experience and intuition to guide you in a direction that leads to opportunity. Avoid unpredictable people. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take pride in your work and how you run your home. Listen to what others say, but do what works best for you. A good deal is only in your best interest if the results align with what you want. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are demonstrative, ambitious and forceful. You are helpful and courageous.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**HOBNOBBING** Solution: 4 letters

T	B	G	P	L	C	O	R	O	Y	A	L	Y	K
S	S	C	U	A	A	L	R	O	T	C	A	L	N
A	U	E	O	E	R	E	U	G	O	A	I	D	T
O	O	L	R	T	S	T	M	B	U	L	C	N	O
T	M	E	G	E	V	T	Y	N	G	A	O	E	K
I	A	B	P	A	T	E	J	H	N	M	V	B	A
M	F	R	H	M	M	C	N	O	M	E	O	E	T
P	Y	I	O	D	C	E	I	U	I	R	O	N	P
O	L	T	T	L	R	S	N	N	E	N	C	E	S
R	D	Y	O	I	S	I	T	G	F	M	E	F	P
T	N	S	C	E	C	E	N	T	A	O	I	I	E
A	E	H	F	A	R	I	D	K	I	G	R	T	C
N	I	O	T	A	S	T	A	T	U	S	E	M	I
T	R	E	C	N	O	C	R	A	I	L	I	M	A
P	F	T	C	A	T	N	O	C	H	A	T	V	L

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Actor, Benefit, Celebrity, Chat, Close, Club, Communicate, Concert, Contact, Dialogue, Drink, Engage, Event, Familiar, Famous, Festivity, Friendly, Game, Group, Guest, Important, Informal, Interact, Interest, Join, Laugh, Link, Meal, Party, Photo, Professional, Rich, Royalty, Singer, Speak, Special, Status, Story, Talk, Team, Time, Toast, Venue, Visit, Voice  
**Last Friday's Answer: Pepperoni**  
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# UConn routs Gonzaga, 82-54, for first Final Four in 9 years



**LAS VEGAS**  
(AP)—The critique of UConn under coach Dan Hurley

had been the program's inability to win in March.

Consecutive first-round NCAA Tournament exits meant the Huskies were good, not great—certainly not anywhere in league with the UConn women's program.

In perhaps the maddest March of all, Huskies proved they are elite again, putting in another dominating performance a few hours after the UConn women had a rare misstep.

Jordan Hawkins scored 20 points and UConn overwhelmed its fourth straight NCAA Tournament opponent, earning its first trip to the Final Four in nine years with an 82-54 blowout of Gonzaga on Saturday night.

"I think it becomes a little bit of a mental hurdle, especially like early rounds of the NCAA Tournament where you feel like maybe the burden of the history and tradition and first-round games, maybe even second-round games," Hurley said. "The climb to get to this point has been real and it's been more challenging than I thought."

The Huskies (29-8) have felt right at home in their first extended March Madness run since winning the 2014 national championship, playing their best basketball of what had been an up-and-down season.

UConn controlled the usually efficient Bulldogs at both ends in the West Region final, building a 23-point lead early in the second half to waltz right into the final section of



UConn guard Jordan Hawkins (24) celebrates in the second half of an Elite 8 college basketball game against Gonzaga in the West Region final of the NCAA Tournament, Saturday, March 25, 2023, in Las Vegas.

the bracket.

Those first-round exits are now well in the rearview mirror. So is that midseason funk.

These elite Huskies did what the UConn women couldn't for once and are headed to Houston, where they will play Texas or Miami.

UConn has a pretty good track record once it gets this far, too: The Huskies are 8-1 all-time in Final Four games.

"We've got a lot to prove," said Andre Jackson Jr., who

had eight points, 10 assists and nine rebounds. "We still have a chip on our shoulder."

The Bulldogs (31-6) didn't have the same second-half magic they had in a last-second win over UCLA in the Elite Eight.

Gonzaga allowed UConn to go on a late run to lead by seven at halftime and fell completely apart after All-American Drew Timme went to the bench with his fourth foul early in the second half.

The Zags shot 33% from the field — 7 of 29 in the second half — and went 2 for 20 from 3 to stumble in their bid for a third Final Four since 2017.

"UConn was just terrific tonight and we didn't have any answers, especially when kind of everything really didn't bounce our way," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "And we can't absorb a game like that when our offense is as bad as it was tonight."

Alex Karaban scored 12 points and Adama Sanogo had 10 points and 10 rebounds for UConn.

Timme had 12 points and 10 rebounds, receiving a warm ovation after being taken out of his final collegiate game with 1:50 left.

"I'm just so thankful that the program and the place took me for who I was," said Timme, who shared a long embrace with Few when he exited. "They didn't ask me

to be anybody but myself."

The Zags started off like they had a Vegas hangover, firing off two air-balled 3-pointers and a wild runner by Timme. Once Gonzaga shook out the cobwebs, the Bulldogs kept the Huskies bridled with defense, with hard hedges on screens and Timme sagging off Jackson to protect the lane.

UConn countered by getting the ball into the strong hands of Sanogo, the facilitator. The UConn big man picked apart Gonzaga's double-teams for five first-half assists, including two for layups.

"We figured that out," Hurley said. "That doesn't work anymore."

Karaban hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to put the Huskies up 39-32 at halftime, and it got worse for Gonzaga to start the second half.

UConn pushed the lead to 12 and Timme picked up his third and fourth fouls in the opening 2 1/2 minutes — one on a charge, another on a box-out under the rim.

"We brought the team together and tried to keep positive thoughts and try to keep chipping away at that lead," Gonzaga forward Anton Watson said. "But it's hard when Drew goes out."

The Huskies really got rolling when Timme took a seat, using their defense to get out in transition and set up 3-pointers. A 14-3 run put UConn up 60-37 and Few took the calculated gamble of bringing Timme back in.

It made little difference.

UConn kept up the pressure and kept making shots, looking an awful lot like the favorite to win it all.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Alijah Martin sent a message early for upstart Florida Atlantic, soaring to the basket for a one-handed jam and chirping with the Kansas State players about his poster moment at Madison Square Garden.

"They're going to label us whatever, but we're some pit bulls and Rottweilers," Martin said.

Now they can call the ninth-seeded Owls a Final Four team.

Martin and FAU withstood another huge game by Kansas State's Markquis Nowell and brushed off a deficit in the final eight minutes to beat the Wildcats 79-76 on Saturday night.

FAU (35-3), making just its second appearance in the NCAA Tournament and first since 2002, won the East Region and will head to Houston to play the winner of Sunday's South Region final between Creighton and San Diego State.

"I expect the prognosti-

## FAU holds off Nowell and K-State to reach 1st Final Four

cators to pick us fifth in the Final Four," fifth-year FAU coach Dusty May said.

In one of the most unpredictable NCAA Tournaments ever—all four No. 1 seeds were out by the Elite Eight—the Owls from Conference USA typify the madness.

The winningest team in Division I this season had never won an NCAA Tournament game before ripping off four straight, all by single digits, to become the first No. 9 seed to reach the Final Four since Wichita State in 2013. The Owls are the third No. 9 to get that far since seeding began in 1979.

"Honestly, all the things people say just fuels us to go out there and play even harder," said Bryan Greenlee, who scored 16 points before fouling out. "They can say whatever they want, say we're a Cinderella team, say

we don't belong, but we've constantly proven people wrong all season."

Nowell, the 5-foot-8 native New Yorker—@MrNewYorkCity on Twitter—was incredible again at Madison Square Garden, with 30 points, 12 assists and five steals. In the Sweet 16, Nowell set the NCAA Tournament record with 19 assists in an overtime win against Michigan State. He didn't get enough help this time.

Nae'Qwan Tomlin was the only other player in double figures for Kansas State (26-10) with 14 points. Keyontae Johnson, the Wildcats' leading scorer, fouled out with nine points.

"Keyontae played 18 minutes, and that's why he was neutralized," said first-year Kansas State coach Jerome Tang, who took over a team that went 14-17 last season.

Martin scored 17 points, including a huge 3 down the stretch, the 7-foot-1 Vladislav Goldin had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Michael Forrest made four clutch free throws in the final 20 seconds for the Owls, who held steady as the Wildcats made one last push.

Cam Carter made a 3 from the wing with 22.8 seconds left to cut FAU's lead to 75-74 and Kansas State sent Forrest to the line with 17.9 seconds left. The senior made both to make it a three-point game.

Nowell found Tomlin inside for a layup with 8.6 seconds left to cut the lead to one again, and again K-State sent Forrest to the line. With 6.9 remaining, he made them both.

With no timeouts left, Nowell rushed down the court, gave up the ball to

Ismael Massoud outside the 3-point line — and never got it back. FAU's Johnell Davis swiped it away and time ran out.

"I was trying to get Ish a shot," Nowell said. "Coach wanted Ish to set the screen, and I waved it off because I felt like on the right side of the court, that's where Ish hits most of his shots. And they closed out hard to him, and he didn't get his shot off."

Nowell was named the most outstanding player of the region after his final collegiate game, but FAU turned out to be the best team.

"I gave my heart and soul to this university, to this team," Nowell said. "I maximized everything I had inside of me to see these guys happy."

As the Owls built their lead in the final minutes, Kansas State fans who had

packed the building became anxiously quiet and the "F-A-U!" chants started to rise.

The Owls rushed the floor to celebrate a historic moment for the school. FAU didn't even have a basketball program until the late 1980s and has only been in Division I for the last 30 years.

"I'm living the dream right now," Forrest said.

FAU held up to Tennessee's bully ball in the Sweet 16 and dropped a 40-point second half on the best defense in the nation to eliminate the Southeastern Conference team.

Against one of the Big 12's best, FAU dominated the boards, 44-22, and became the first team from C-USA to reach the Final Four since Memphis in 2008.

The Owls aren't hanging around much longer. They're moving to the American Athletic Conference next season. But first: a trip to Texas.



# Conference leaders clash as Nuggets top Bucks, 129-106



**DENVER** (AP)—Nikola Jokic had 31 points and 11 assists, Jamal Murray finished with 26 points and nine assists, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Milwaukee Bucks 129-106 on Saturday night in a late-season showdown of the NBA's conference leaders.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 19 points for West-leading Denver (50-24), which outscored East-leading Milwaukee 68-40 in the second half.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 31 points—just seven in the second half -- and grabbed nine rebounds for the Bucks (53-20).

The battle of the top teams in each conference—and two strong MVP candidates—was more competitive than the teams' first meeting, won by the Bucks 107-99.

## SUNS 125, 76ERS 105

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Devin Booker scored 29 points, Bismack Biyombo added 17 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks, and the Phoenix Suns snapped a three-game losing streak.

Phoenix got good minutes from most of their bench players, particularly Terrence Ross and T.J. Warren. Warren finished with 16 points, while Ross had 15. Booker shot 9 of

18 from the field and hit all nine of his free throws.

The Suns won despite a huge game from Sixers guard Tyrese Maxey, who finished with 37 points on 14-of-19 shooting, including 7 of 11 from 3-point range. Joel Embiid added 28 points and 10 rebounds.

## KINGS 121, JAZZ 113

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Kevin Huerter scored 27 points, had seven rebounds and four assists and Sacramento beat Utah.

Domantas Sabonis finished with 16 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists for his NBA-leading 60th double-double of the season. Harrison Barnes added 18 points. Keegan Murray scored 14 of his 22 total points in the first quarter and knocked down six three-pointers for the Kings.

Jazz rookie Walker Kessler scored a career-high 31 points for the Jazz. Kessler added 11 rebounds and finished 14 of 16 from the floor. Kelly Olynyk finished with 17 points and 10 assists. Ochai Agbaji scored 20 and Jarrell Brantley added 13 off the bench for Utah.

## NETS 129, HEAT 100

**MIAMI** (AP)—Mikal Bridges scored 27 points, and the Brooklyn Nets opened the third quarter on a 31-6 run on the way to rolling past



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, juggles the ball as Milwaukee Bucks forward Khris Middleton, center, and Denver forward Michael Porter Jr. battle for position under the net in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 25, 2023, in Denver.

Miami and leapfrogging the Heat back into the No. 6 spot in the Eastern Conference.

Cam Johnson added 23 points and Spencer Dinwiddie scored 15 for the Nets (40-34), who snapped a five-game slide. They're only a half-game up on Miami (40-35) in the race for the sixth and final guaranteed playoff

berth, but swept the Heat 3-0 this season and would also own a head-to-head tiebreaker.

Max Strus scored 23 for the Heat, all of them in the first half. Tyler Herro scored 23, Jimmy Butler had 18 and Bam Adebayo finished with 16 for the Heat. Miami was outscored 64-31 after halftime.

## HAWKS 143, PACERS 130

**ATLANTA** (AP)—John Collins led eight Atlanta scorers in double figures with 21 points and the Hawks overcame Jordan Nwora's season-high 33 points and protected their shaky hold on the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff standings

Trae Young was ejected in the third quarter after firing an unusually hard pass to referee Scott Wall during a timeout. Wall caught the ball. Young was immediately called for a technical foul and ejected. Young had 14 points and five assists. Dejounte Murray had 20 points in his return after missing two games with a non-COVID illness. Saddiq Bey led Atlanta's bench with 18 points.

Tyrese Haliburton scored 19 points and Buddy Hield had 16 for Indiana.

## PELICANS 131, CLIPPERS 110

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Trey Murphy III scored 32 points, Brandon Ingram had 32 points and 13 assists, and the New Orleans Pelicans never trailed against the Los Angeles Clippers.

C.J. McCollum had 21 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Pelicans, who have won four in a row.

Bones Hyland scored 18 points and Kawhi Leonard added 12 points and six rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost three of four.

At risk of falling out of the play-in tournament with a loss, the energized Pelicans started out hot, scoring the first eight points, and never let up.

## KETSON

From Page 20

family even in his difficult times. He sacrificed so much, himself and his well being for the happiness of his loved ones and friends. I know if Jack was still with us today he would say, 'be strong and don't worry about everything, let God take care of it,' which is what he always tells me whenever he knows I'm worried about him. So let's all be strong and let God take care of him because all of us here are just visitors in this place called Earth. Our final dwelling will be with our Creator where life is so much more beautiful. Once again thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. We love you all," said Patty.

Northern Marianas Sports Association joined the islands' sports community in mourning the loss of Kabiriel.

"NMSA would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of national athlete Ketson 'Jack' Kabiriel. Jack represented the NMI in various regional competitions and brought honor to the islands by winning medals and setting a good example to his fellow athletes. The NMSA acknowledges his great con-

tributions to NMI sports with his involvement in athletics, *va'a*, triathlon, and volleyball as an athlete and a coach. He will be missed," said NMSA president Jerry Tan.

Northern Marianas Athletics also extended its deepest and profound condolences and prayers to Kabiriel's family and loved ones.

"Jack was a staunch and well respected friend to all of us. You see it's not only in sports, though he steers for his national paddle team, he was a significant part of our traditional navigational seafaring movement in our region. He played a big role," said NMA president Ramon "Ray" Tebuteb.

The former congressman, who is also part of the group promoting the local seafaring tradition in the CNMI, added that Kabiriel was a great inspiration to both the running and rowing community.

"On a regular basis, Jack not only cruises the running paths on our scenic Beach Road but glides the surfaces of our blue ocean. He loved long distance challenges. He showed his fortitude to aspiring athletes. He will be missed. May he rest in peace, we wish his family and friends peace and comfort. TIROW JACK."

The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation said together with all their member clubs, they are saddened by the untimely passing of one of their "ocean family members."

"Our entire ocean family mourns with his family and sends our most sincere and deepest condolences to his wife, kids and the family. Jack will be greatly missed not only by his ocean family, but also by the entire sports community in the Commonwealth. He spent all his life in sports—his years before *va'a* were with the athletics federation representing the NMI in all the regional games and became a household name known for his endurance running. About 10 to 15 years ago, he ran across from the track and field area and hopped on the *va'a* and made a huge contribution to the ocean sports representing his respective canoe club and the NMI in local, regional, and international competitions," said NMNPSF president Justine Andrew.

More than a rower, Andrew said Kabiriel was a true friend to everyone.

"We will definitely miss his big smiles, warm, and friendly personality and his overall presence in our sports

community. As he set his canoe and paddle ready for the next journey, we bid him 'fair winds and following seas and may the winds, the currents and the ocean swells be always on your manu hope!' Until we meet again, paddle on brother Jack!"

Triathlon Association of the CNMI secretary general Jojo Valencia extended their condolences to the Kabiriel family following his untimely demise.

"On behalf of TRAC, we are deeply saddened to hear the news about the passing of our fellow athlete Jack Kabiriel. Jack is a good man and a great athlete. He will be missed by many people, especially the sports community here in CNMI. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family."

TRAC president Manny Sitchon said the last time he saw Kabiriel was during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"Last time I saw Jack was during the PMG 2022, walking along the Garapan Pathway (Joeten) he was going to the Grandvrio Resort, site of the athletes village. I stopped my car and had a little chat with him. He looked pale and thin. From then on I regret not

having talked with him a little longer. He's a nice, soft-spoken person and a very athletic guy. The CNMI just lost one of our sports gems," he said.

Elias Rangamar, NMA development officer who has known Kabiriel since he started running competitively, was a loss for words after finding out about his ward's passing.

"I practically coached Jack through his early days when he first moved to Saipan. A great inspiration not just to the Chuukese community but the whole Saipan community as well. Great human being with a kind and generous heart."

Rowing teammate Dr. Bobby Cruz said he's also heartbroken with the sudden passing of Kabiriel.

"Jack was my brother, coach, and our team's captain. He inspired me and the boys to keep pushing even when times get tough. Jack was always about challenging himself. He believed in seeing how far his body could go so that the next time around he does better. Jack was mentally the strongest champion I know. He'd tell me to talk to myself and to keep pushing through and to never give up."

The Public School System director of Instructional Technology and Distance Educa-

tion said Kabiriel saw the Pacific Islands as capable of competing at the highest level.

"He believed that if others can do it, then we could do it too. He always showed up for every challenge. He'd gun for first but even if he finished 10th place, it didn't matter because at least he finished the race. And having the courage to show up and finish means you're a winner. Captain Jack's mindset often leads him and us to victory. When time got really hard in competition, he made it a battle for his family, and that love for Patty and the kids pushed him to the next level and ultimate victory."

Cruz said his most indelible memory of Kabiriel was when he asked him what he does to get pumped up.

"He said, 'I always picture the feeling of making it to the finish line. Especially when I'm getting close to finishing, I tell myself to push harder, finish strong, and be proud of the accomplishment. No regrets! Just lessons learned. Opportunities to be better! With life, I always wanna do my best because I know down the line what I bring to my family and my home will be my legacy... Something that they will remember and cherish forever,'" recalled Cruz.



# Denevan, Muldoon top Happy Hearts 5K

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



A couple who runs together, stays together.

Not only did lovebirds Michael Denevan and Dr. Lily Muldoon joined and ran in the 2nd Annual CHCC Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run & Walk; they also topped their respective divisions last Friday evening.

From the Garapan Fishing Base to just past the Japanese Tank Memorial in Quartermaster and back, the couple raced each other to the finish—with Denevan outpacing Muldoon in the end with a time of 20:48. Muldoon crossed the finish line a few seconds after at 21:31.

After Denevan in the men's division was Greg Tusso at 21:58 and third was Chad Taflinger with a time of 22:12.

In the women's division behind Muldoon was Adallee Taflinger at 25:19 and third was Rosemarie Chisato at 25:20.

Denevan, who is married to Muldoon, said that, "I really enjoyed the CHCC Happy Hearts 5K race! Run Saipan did an amazing job organizing, as always, and it was great to see so many [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] staff come out and participate."

"The run itself was really fun. Dr. Lily Muldoon was



close behind me until the turnaround when I was finally able to get some separation while she was focused on cheering for the other runners," he said.

For Muldoon, CHCC Medical director of Public Health. said that from the beginning of the race, she knew her husband was out for blood.

"I could tell by his body

language at the start line that Michael was going to be racing me today and out to win it. He kept a fast pace and at the turnaround point I knew I didn't have what it would take today to keep up with him. Big congrats to Michael Denevan! I'm always happy when he decides to get out and run."

Additionally, she said "We

had many representatives from CHCC out running and walking, including people across departments and specialties. These races provide an important way to connect with colleagues and get to know one another outside of the workplace. I highly encourage employers to organize fun runs and walks with their staff and

families. These events build connections while promoting activity and exercise."

"Friday evening on Beach Road with the sun setting over the ocean is invigorating and a great way to start the weekend," she said.

Sunshine Squad chair and Run Saipan vice president Dr. Jenna Kong said after the event.

"This is the second year that we put together this Happy Hearts 5K. It's to show the support that the hospital staff has for embracing cardiovas-

cular health and we hope to make this an annual thing with Run Saipan. We're really happy about the increased turnout we had this year. We had 160 some runners sign up versus 100 last year, so hopefully it'll keep on growing."

Prior to the race, the Sunshine Squad, CHCC's charity/social events committee, donated \$1,000 to Run Saipan.

To view race results, check out <https://results.onetime.sport/activities/event/5285e1c0-c090-4e4d-8134-e429353523c6>.

## SBL

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porters, the Umpires Association, and others who made their way to the field to witness the resumption of baseball in the CNMI.

"It's going to be a very exciting season this year and we're happy to have 11 teams signed up."

Tan, for his part as a sponsor of the league and president of NMSA, said "We're really, really happy to be involved and to support baseball. And from NMSA's side, we're just glad to have baseball back. Finally baseball is back! This is something our community has been waiting for years."

"It was great to see our national team come out as a gold medalist in the Pacific Mini Games last year—but that was only the kickoff. Today is really the beginning of our local league that involves 11 teams, so we cannot be happier than that," he said.

Tan then thanked Santos and the SBL board for working hard to put the league and

season together.

He added that "hopefully, in the coming months—not coming years—we will begin to see international baseball" and that the CNMI national team will again see action in the Micronesian Games.

"At the same time, I'm also hoping to see more baseball teams—particularly from Japan and Korea—to come back here... We should work toward the international aspect as well

and while we are very happy in kicking off our local league, I also hope to see little league come back as well. That will be our grassroots and development for the future. So in the meantime, I want to wish all 11 teams good luck and enjoy the season," said Tan.

Coldeen, for his part, credited those who had a hand in bringing back CNMI baseball. He then congratulated the new board for reviving baseball

again. "I pledge my support, Jerry's pledged his support, and we ask the community to please support the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League and bring it back the way it used to be."

He then asked a favor from Tan to build a Little League ballpark and ended with "Baseball is back!"

Results of Game 1 and 2 will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



LEIGH GASES

Saipan Baseball League president Jay Santos, second from right, makes his remarks during the opening ceremony of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season, and is joined by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, second left, and former sports broadcaster Bob Coldeen, right, last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

## ISAIAH

From Page 20

Saipan International School, was first among the women in the Triathlon Association of the CNMI-organized event after tearing the tape in 42:32. She was followed by Jinie Thompson in 45:59 and Shawna Brennfleck in 47:45.

The course today was actually good but the swimming was hard. The weather was perfect as it wasn't too hot and wasn't too windy so it was easier to run," said Chavez, who timed in at 53:44 last year.

Asked what was the toughest part of the Aquathlon, she said hands down it was the swimming.

"I knew a lot of people were stronger [swimmers] than me so I used all my advantage in running to get a big lead... Usually I go hard

in the first 2.5K and then in swimming I just do my pace and then the last 2.5K I go hard in the last half," she said.

Topping their age respective groups were Matthew Szeffler (51:12) and Maria Batallones (48:42) in the U20; Kerri Bauer (51:08) in the women 30-39; Travis Spaeth (47:36) and Robyn Spaeth (48:13) in the 40-49; Anthony Raho (49:48) and Yulia Aleksenko (57:09) in the 50-59; and Buboy Aguilar (52:04) in the men's 60-69.

In the kids relay, Haole Pinyons Leilani Ruszala and Gabriel Walsh finished first with a time of 46:13, followed by the aptly named Amphibians of Lovel Spaeth and Scarlett Burrell, who came in a milliseconds later in 46:15.

Results of the 10K run will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.





**UConn routs  
Gonzaga 82-54 for  
first Final Four in 9  
years**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



**Kabiriel**

## Ketson 'Jack' Kabiriel passes away

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI sports community last weekend mourned the passing of multi-sports athlete Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel. He was 47.

The three-time Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year succumbed to cancer at the Commonwealth Health Center last Saturday morning. Kabiriel, who represented the CNMI in

track and field as well as paddling, triathlon, and volleyball in many regional events including the Micronesian Games, is survived by his loving wife Patty and their children Kaden, K.J., Gabby, and Koen. Their nephew, Dennis, is also considered part of the family.

Nicknamed the "Roadrunner Bunny," Kabiriel was diagnosed with stage 2 oral cancer in December 2021.

Patty extended his heartfelt

thank you for all the messages of condolences these past couple of days following Kabiriel's passing.

"I want to thank each and everyone who loved Jack. On behalf of Jack's family—his dad, his siblings who are all here to lay Jack in his final resting place, myself, and our kids—we thank you all for your love for your support during Jack's life and during his time battling with cancer. We thank you for your words

of sympathy, condolences, and prayers. Please know that you are all important to us."

She added that his late husband remained strong even as cancer ravaged his body in his final days.

"Jack was a strong person even when he was in pain, he never showed it because that's how he is. He always tries to put a positive face on. He would rather stay strong for others especially for his

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## SBL ushers return of America's pastime

By **LEIGH GASES**  
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REPORTER

America's pastime is back with the opening ceremony and doubleheader of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season played last Saturday afternoon at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The ceremonial first pitch was made by Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan and retired sports broadcaster Bob Coldeen prior to the games played between the CK Bears and the Brewers and the Cardinals versus the Junior Nationals.

This season is scheduled to have 25 games in a single-round robin format, with the championship set for June be-

tween the 11 teams.

The teams are the CK Bears, the Cardinals, the Braves, the Falcons, the Brewers, the Bandits, the Blue Jays, the Junior Nationals (U18), the Comets, the Natives, and the D9ers.

During the opening ceremony, SBL president Jay Santos welcomed and thanked the board, Tan Holdings, NMSA, the teams, families, friends, sup-

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**LEIGH GASES**

Tan Holdings and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, left, and former sports broadcaster Bob Coldeen throw the first pitch during the opening ceremony of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

## Isaiah, Kaithlyn repeat in Aquathlon



**Aleksenko**

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Isaiah Aleksenko and Kaithlyn Chavez made their best amphibian impersonation by repeating as top finishers in the 8th Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run held early Saturday morning along Beach Road and the waters off Kilili Beach in Oleai.

Aleksenko continued to impress by coming in first overall with a time of 36:04, slashing more than 10 minutes from his

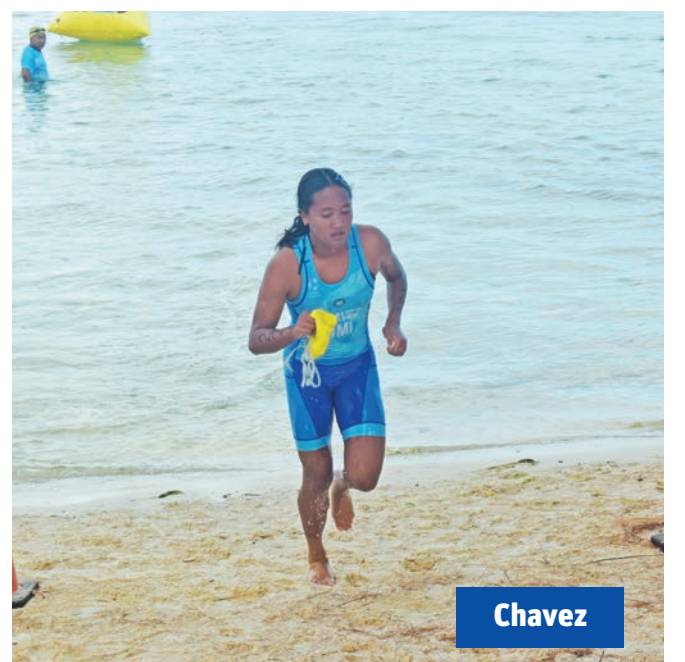
time a year ago in the 2.5-kilometer run, 1km swim, and 2.5km run event. He beat Michael Miller and Moshe Sikkell who crossed the finish line in 38:31 and 41:14, respectively.

"The weather was good, not too hot and not too cold. The course was better this time and the water was good too. Didn't really prepare and just came. The last run was the toughest part of the race," Aleksenko, a 17-year-old junior at Marianas High School, said after the aquathlon, which he also won last year with a time of 46:25.

Chavez, a 10th grader from

**See ISAIAH on Page 19**

**8TH SAIPAN  
AQUATHLON  
& 10K  
PATHWAY RUN**



**Chavez**